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in the Province of Choco

JOURNAL

RESIDENCE AND TRAVELS

IN

COLOMBIA,

DURING THE YEARS 1823 AND 1824,

BY

CAPT. CHARLES STUART COCHRANE,

OF THE ROYAL NAVY.

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CONTENTS

OF

THE SECOND VOLUME.

CHAPTER IX.

Bogota'. Description of the City. Climate. Soil. Agriculture. Architecture. Cathedral. Churches, Monasteries, and Convents. Hospitals. Want of medical aid. Poor. Disease of *San Lazaro*. Local distempers. Goîtres. Colleges. Lancasterian Schools. Palace of the Vice-President. Its furniture, &c. The Mint. Barracks. The Theatre. Streets. Bridges. Market. The Host. Supply of provisions, clothing, &c. Pottery ware. Fountains. Lighting the streets. The shops. Houses. Domestic architecture. Four agents of police. Costume of the ladies. *Beatés*. Domestic customs. Emancipation of slaves. Indians. Amusements. Modes of conveyance. Roads. Mails. Honesty of the Natives - - - - 1—47

CHAPTER X.

Bogota'. Government of Colombia. Senate, and Chamber of Representatives. Elections. Qualifications of candidates. Qualification of foreigners. The senate. Method of passing a bill. The government. Supreme court of justice. Reception of the laws by the Natives. Meetings of the senate. Senate house. Jeronimo Torres. Padre Briceno. The Bishop of Merida. Nariño. His defence. Decision of the senate. Dr. Soto. Hurtado. Gual and Castillos. House of Representatives. Caycedo. Mountain party. Valley party. Anecdote - - - - - 48—84

CHAPTER XI.

Bogota'. Sunday. Political discussion. Attending mass. Dress of the ladies. Gallantry. The Vice-President, General Francisco de Paulo Santander. His career. Señor Gual. Castillos. Restrepo. Briceno Mendez. Urdineta. Gaiety of the people. Horses. The Alameda. A dinner party. Sunday evening. Fête Dieu. The clergy. Manners of the Natives. Disposition. General kindness. Customs. Evening parties. System of gallantry. State of society. Interior of the houses. A ball. *Tertulia.* Dancing. Music. Beauty of the females. Men handsomer than the females. Not much addicted to reading or study. Conclusion of the evening - - - - - 85—125

CHAPTER XII.

Bogota'. Excursion to Fontabon. The Venta. The fandango. Republican equality. Return home. Hunt-

ing party. Shelter for the night. The hunt. News from England. Opinion of the Natives as to the conduct of the English Ministers. Pearl fishery. Isthmus of Panama. Pearls. Grants by the ministers. Feasts of Boyacá. General festivity. National dishes. Tormenting bulls. Masquerade. Padilla. Despatches from Maracaybo. Naval victory. Painting. Grand party - - - - - 126—172

CHAPTER XIII.

Bogota'. Breakfast party. Lagoon of Guatavita. Fall of Tequendama. Tradition. Bridge of Pandi. Wonders of nature. Preparations for departure from the capital. Parting with friends. Road to Guatavita. State of the corn lands, &c. Guatavita. Catholic priest. Farming costume. Lassoing. Extract from Captain Basil Hall. Hacienda of Echárléche. The Andes. Lake of Guatavita. History of the Lagoon. Ancient Indian road. Villages of Sescala and Yousa. Salt springs. Coffee. Toursaleta. Extracting nitre. Sepulchral cave. Islanian wine. Watcheta. Road to Liva. Earthenware manufactory. Coquisa shrub. Suta. A party. Cherry-moyeau tree. Liva. Thunderstorm. Copper mines of Muniquera. Return to Liva. Chiquinquera. Friar's apartment. Church. Anecdote of the picture of the Virgin. Monastery. Religious ceremony. Emerald mines. Lake of Foucany. A hunt. Reflections. Herd of wild cattle. Indian burial places. A storm. Draining the Lake. Change of weather. A church collection. Clerical expedient. Anecdote. Return to Bogotá - - 173—262

CHAPTER XIV.

Bogota'. Patriotic tertulias. Form of invitation. Capture of Puerto Cabello. Excursion to Montserrat. Bolivar's *Quinta*. Church of Nuestro Señor. View of the city. Extensive prospect. Produce of the soil. Customs. Soldiery. Infantry. Cavalry. Artillery. Militia. Influence of Great Britain. Navy. National amusements. Festivals. Christmas-day. Theatricals. Military rewards. Spanish policy. The treasury. Departure from Bogotá - - - 263—297

CHAPTER XV.

Journey. Fontabon. *Boca del Monte*. *Campána* flower. Variation of temperature. Roads. Tenja. La Mesa. Anapoyma. Neglect of the sick. Driving mules across a river. Piñon. *Caucho-tree*. Crossing the Tusagasega. Cangreco. Crossing the Magdalena. Purification. Roguery of the *Peons*. Saldánea. Method of gold washing. Don Caycedo. Gold about Coyama. Want of water. River Chinche. Rosario. Crossing the Saldánea. Indian tribute. Indian *washings*. Apone. Mines. Formation of a raft. Passage on the *Balsa*. Dexterity of the pilot. Death of Nariño. Return to Purification. Sham bull-fighting. Singular religious custom. Cock mass. Christmas-day. Departure for Ibague. Quello. Anecdote of a hawk. Shelter for the night. Mines. Ibague. Billiards. Cock-fighting. A party. Bull-fight. Selection of guides. Arbitrary power. Plan for growing corn. Mode of loading the *Peons*. Mode of conveyance - 298—358

CHAPTER XVI.

Passage of the Cordillera of the Andes called Quindio. Lieutenant Ortegas. Malarino. Erection of a *Rancha*. Journey. Bad roads. La Tapia. El Moral. New Year's Day. Anecdote of a Spanish Officer. *El Tambo de Toche*. Dinner. Vile roads. Difficulties of travelling. Contadéros. Palm trees. Anecdotes of tigers. Storm. Illness. Novilla. Wretched roads. La Balsa. Post. Guaduas. Most deplorable roads. Storm. An Adventure. Cartago. Monsieur Le Roche. Mines of Bega de Supia. Sachafruta. Pantano. Echandia Mermato. Valley of the Cauca. Coffee. Difficulty of export. Celebrated medicinal herb *Cabuiá*. Religion of the young men. Early marriages. Description of the city of Cartago. Commerce. Climate. Universal esteem of the Natives for Baron de Humboldt. Sierra de Moro - - - 359—392

CHAPTER XVII.

Departure from Cartago. Cauca. Detention through illness. Colombian phlebotomizing. Journey continued. La *Cabezara*. *El Torrecito*. Defection of a Peon. Storm. Miserable travelling. Tigers. Young Peons. Higeron. *Las Cruces*. *El Choro de Pajea*. Indian blowpipe. Poisoned arrows. Bamboo houses. The Guadua-tree. Precipitous descent. Las Juntas. *Rana de Venena*. River Tamina. La Cabezera. Peons. Novita. Señor Hurtado. Negroes. Chocó. Platina, &c. Gold. Milks and Balsams. Ignorance of the Natives. Departure from Novita. San Juan. San Pablo. Tambo. Black Girl. Citera. Proposed junction of the Two Oceans. Tambo of Citera 393—433

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Rapadura. El Platanero. Indian family. Tradition. Sespidá. Crossing the Atrato. Citera. Letters from Bogotá. *Tierras Baldias.* Society. Mines. Champan. Palo de Vaca tree. Curandoes. Snakes. Departure from Citera. Voyage down the river. Passage of the River Niapippi. *Flechera.* Vieja. Cuna Indians. Barbacoa. Superstition of the Pilot. Breakers. Islands of S. Bernardo. Carthagena - 434—459

CHAPTER XIX.

CARTHAGENA. Montilla. Fortifications. The Papa. Extensive view. Priestcraft. Party. Shooting party. Practical jokes. Mahates. Want of good water. Commerce. Extract from Colonel Hall's Pamphlet on Colombia. Steam Boats. Agriculture. Hospitals. Departure from Carthagena. Voyage. Santa Martha. Jamaica. General Observations - - 460—498

APPENDIX.

No. 1. Bulletin of the Army besieging Puerto Cabello.
2. Pay of the Army.
3. Price of Merchandize, &c.
4. Returns of Revenue, &c.
5. Return of value of Produce, &c. - 499—515

JOURNAL

OF A

RESIDENCE IN COLOMBIA.

CHAPTER IX.

BOGOTA'.—MANNERS AND CUSTOMS; &c.

Bogota', the capital of Colombia, was founded in 1538 by Gonzalo Ximenes de Quesada, who originally built twelve houses in honour of the twelve apostles, on the skirt of the two mountains of Mont Serrat and La Guadaloupe. It is situated in N. Lat. 4°. 10′, and W. Long. 73°. 50′, in an extensive and fertile plain, to the eastward of the great chain of the Andes. It is elevated to a height of 8615 feet above the level of the sea, and presents an imposing appearance to the

approaching traveller, by the peculiar amphitheatrical form in which the cathedral, convents, and houses are situated; the whole being backed by the lofty mountains, on whose pinnacles are convents, towering 1000 feet above the town itself, which, extending from North to South, covers about a mile in length, from the extreme boundaries, and about half a mile in breadth in the widest part; the ends tapering off into nearly single houses. On account of this great elevation, although the situation is so near the equator, the atmosphere is so rarefied, that it becomes for some time exceedingly oppressive to strangers, who are obliged, whilst walking, to stop frequently to recover their breath, and are unable to proceed, until respiration becomes more free—a feeling which I experienced myself in a great degree. But this is not the least serious inconvenience of the climate; for travellers, arriving here by the Magdalena, (a more general

route than that of Caraccas,) experience, from the sudden change of the level of Honda to the elevation of Bogotá, such effects from the rarity of the air, as to produce oppression of the chest, violent affections of the bowels, or intermittent fever,—in which case I would recommend them to place themselves instantly under medical charge; by imprudently neglecting which they are liable to protracted and dangerous illness.

In this part of the world the division of the year is not as with us who live without the Tropics: here their seasons are divided into rainy and dry, forming two winters, and two summers. March, April, May, September, October, November, are the winter months; the other six are called the summer months. The dry season begins with the Solstices; the wet with the Equinoxes, varying sometimes ten or fifteen days. It is not to be imagined that these winter months are constantly

rainy; the mornings are frequently excessively fine, and a brilliant sunshine tempts you to attire yourself in cool clothing, but often about noon, a *paramo*, or mountain mist comes on, dense and penetrating, sometimes attended by driving sleet, rain, and hail, which wets you to the skin in a short time, and compels you instantly to change your light dress for warmer clothing if you would escape an attack of the bowel complaint. During this season the summits of the mountains are generally enveloped in clouds, but in the other months the heavens are beautifully serene, and unclouded as an Italian sky, and the dew so light that the usual lounge of the inhabitants is by moonlight. In the winter season, the morning, from day-break till eight o'clock, is piercingly cold, and the thermometer frequently down to 47°, though the usual average is from 58° to 63°, and in summer from 68° to 70°, during the warmest time of the dry season.

This climate is very favourable for agriculture,—the soil particularly rich. There are two crops annually, and with industry they might be easily reaped. The plain which lies at the base of this city, is principally divided into *Potraras*,* for grazing cattle and feeding horses. Here and there are villages scattered over this plain, which is of considerable extent; round the houses are gardens which supply the market of the metropolis with vegetables: a large portion of the plain is inundated during the whole year. But little corn is grown, the principal fields for grain being in plains on the other side of the mountains of Zipaquira, whence it is conveyed by mules to the capital. It is the custom of the country to use the plough in the cold districts, and the hoe in the hotter, or lower level; but I feel convinced that were our English ploughs introduced here, it would

* Potraras, inclosed fields for pasturage, similar to those in Leicestershire.

be practicable to use them for the land in general; and I am happy to find that many of these most useful implements are on their way to this country, where only industry, enterprize, and capital, are wanting to reap a golden harvest. I should advise, that men experienced in agriculture, and skilled in the best methods of managing land, should go out, amply provided with the best implements of husbandry; and with machinery for winnowing and grinding the corn in a superior manner to that now practised in the country, where the grain is badly sifted and worse ground. A quantity of the best sorts of European grain, seeds, plants, herbs, &c. should be sent out to flourish in a soil that would rapidly bring them to perfection, and amply repay the speculator.

Architecture has made some progress, but painting and sculpture have but little advanced. The best specimen of the former in

the capital is the cathedral, with the exception of which, the style of building is decidedly of Moorish origin and structure, which was introduced whilst Spain was subservient for so long a time to the Moors, and imbibed a taste for this kind of architecture, which is particularly adapted for a country subject to earthquake, where elegance must be sacrificed to solidity.

The cathedral, which is of the Corinthian order, was built in 1814, from the design of a native Colombian, who was put to death during the war of emancipation, notwithstanding his entreaties to be allowed to complete the work he had commenced. The exterior is not in good taste, or good keeping, the façade being without symmetry or elegance; but the interior is very fine and even tasteful, the decorations being of white and gold, with handsome cornices, and superb altars around, dedicated to the patron

saints. Under the dome, in the centre of the building, the principal altar is raised in great splendour, opposite to which is a richly covered choir, profusely gilded. There is, belonging to this building, a statue of the Virgin Mary, adorned with 1358 diamonds, 1295 emeralds, 372 pearls, 59 amethysts, a topaz, and a hyacinth; the pedestal alone is enriched with 609 amethysts; and the artist is said to have received 4000 piastres for his labour.

Of churches, monasteries, and convents, there are thirty-three in number; some of the churches attached to the convents are particularly rich: the best endowed are those of San Juan de Dios, and the Dominican Order. These buildings are generally square; in the centre is a fountain, and around the building are two galleries, one beneath the other, about fourteen feet in breadth, in which are the doors leading to the various

cells of the monks. The walls are decorated with paintings of the patron saint, representing his birth, miracles, sufferings, and death. There are nine monasteries for men, and three convents for women, the others having fallen into decay in consequence of the revolution, and the increase of knowledge and penetration of the natives, who are fast throwing off the yoke of bigotry and priestcraft, and assuming the right of man to think and act for himself. A considerable number of these slugs are, however, still left to fatten on the plunder which they extract from the credulity of the populace, though it is to be hoped that the march of human intellect in the transatlantic world will not be long retarded by such drones, but that a short time will bring their total dispersion. There is a hospital dependent on San Juan de Dios, but it is rather a speculation for profit, than an asylum for the sick and suffering; all their

medicines are sold; and thus do the monks make an income of the afflictions of their fellow men. There is a military hospital, the medicines requisite for which are also obtained from these same brothers of the cowl, by orders from the commissario, on the representation of the surgeon; this department has, however, most fortunately for the soldiery, been placed under the control of my friend Dr. Mayne, whose appointment as surgeon-general must be productive of much benefit to the afflicted tenants of the hospital, though, in consequence of the delay in procuring the necessary medicines, serious events sometimes occur.

During my stay in Bogotá, two poor fellows fell into a caldron of boiling water, and on being conveyed to the hospital, in consequence of the delay of the parties through whom the orders issued by Dr. Mayne for required remedies were sent, the specifics

were not received for four hours, which delay actually caused their death, from want of timely applications, which this foolish procrastination rendered unavailing when they were at last procured. There is a lamentable deficiency of medical drugs and medical aid throughout the whole republic, but I trust it will be speedily supplied through the active exertions of Dr. Mayne, who has presented a proposal, now under the consideration of the government, for supplying the state with sufficient persons and needful medicines. At present there are but two dispensaries, that of San Juan de Dios, and a private one, both of which vend their medicines at an exorbitant price, and sell articles of an inferior quality. One great drawback to the natives obtaining better advice and assistance is their adherence to the old Spanish custom of paying only four rials (two shillings British) a visit, and unless they can be induced to pay a higher fee, or the

government will take the matter in hand, there is certainly no encouragement for men of medical ability. From my own experience I am led to believe, that one-third of the natives are hurried to a premature grave, and the remainder have their constitutions much injured from want of proper medicines and timely aid. The poor of Bogotá are most miserable objects; on Saturdays they besiege the houses of the ministers and most wealthy inhabitants in thronging multitudes, and if pity should be induced to open the doors, the most wretched scenes of distress, malady, and affliction are presented to the eye; some so disgusting as almost to overpower the suggestions of compassion. This it is intended to ameliorate, by erecting a poor-house, and paying the expenses by a rate on the inhabitants.

A disease, known a long time previous, has spread considerably in Colombia, that is, the

elephantiasis, commonly called the disease of *San Lazaro*. The Spanish government supported in New Grenada an hospital built on the bay of Carthagena, without the walls of the town, in which the unhealthy were kept entirely separate from the rest of the people; but the Spanish General Morales, distinguished by his ferocity, enjoyed, in 1815, the barbarous pleasure of setting fire to the habitation of the lepers, and of burning many of them. From that period they spread themselves through the province of Carthagena, one of those most afflicted by that species of leprosy. The Spaniards re-established the hospital; but the greater part of its funds, which arose from the tax on spirits, being destroyed, it made very little progress while under their control. It has, in like manner, subsisted since the republic took that town; but the monopolies of spirits being entirely suppressed, the funds scarcely suffice for a very few patients.

There is another disorder which is not mortal, but which is widely spread through Colombia; that of the gôitres. It deforms a great part of the population, destroys the beauty of the fair sex; it weakens the senses, and sometimes the understandings of those affected by it: it makes the children weakly, and frequently idiots. This disorder chiefly prevails in the temperate valleys, although the inhabitants of the frozen summits of the mountains are not exempt from it; nor those who dwell in the burning plains of the Magdalena, of the Meta, of the Apure, and of other similarly situated rivers.

The disorder of the gôitres, which, according to the concurring observations of the oldest men, daily extends wider its gloomy empire, and which may become a national disease, demands the most serious consideration of the legislative body, in order to restrain its progress. The government is of

opinion that the moment the more pressing claims of the war will permit, certain funds should be applied for the purpose of trying a great number of experiments under the inspection of skilful physicians, in order to discover a mode of preserving, as well children as adults, from the goitres, and another which may restore to health those who labour under the disease. It is of the greatest importance to excite the learned even of other countries to make enquiries into the causes which produce the disorder, and into the means of remedying it. The offer of a liberal reward to whoever may satisfactorily solve those two questions, and demonstrate by experience the truth of his reasonings, would be a step worthy of the congress of Colombia.

There are three colleges, conducted on a scale superior to that of the hospitals; they are well situated and strongly built; that of the Jesuits is the principal; the majority

of the professors are monks, there being but few of the laity. The youth are instructed in Latin, mathematics, natural and moral philosophy, and theology. Besides this, there is now forming a school of mineralogy, under the auspices of Dr. Mariano di Rivero, a most sensible, scientific, and clever man, a native of Peru, educated in the schools of England, France, and Germany, and recommended by Baron Humboldt to the government. This gentleman, who is particularly skilled in the practical knowledge of the best methods of mining in all its branches, is also founding a National Museum, which has, under his hands, made considerable progress, and for which he has travelled, to increase the collection already amassed; and out of the four thousand dollars per annum allowed him by the government, he has generously resigned one thousand to augment the funds of the Museum.—They have established here a Lancastrian school on the most liberal princi-

ples, for which the natives are principally indebted to the praiseworthy exertions of the Vice-President, General Santander, through whose strenuous endeavours to put in force the commands of congress these schools have been established not only in the capital, but in the most remote villages of the republic; and I am convinced that every one who has a feeling of interest in this subject, will agree with me in paying the due meed of praise to the indefatigable Vice-President, who has so unceasingly exerted himself in furthering thus beneficially the vital interests of his country, and in this point giving an example to the old world, many of whose inhabitants are averse from disseminating the blessings of education, and instructing the minds of the poor.

By the high-sounding title of palace given to the residence of the President of the Republic, one might be led to expect a noble

and sumptuous building; but it is in fact merely a flat-roofed house, built, like the other edifices of the country, of sunburnt clay. On each side of it are attached two lower buildings, or wings, without symmetry or proportion, the one being much longer than the other; the extreme part of the longest wing is the prison, at the windows of which the prisoners are allowed to appear and importune the charity of the passengers, or hold intercourse with their friends; between this and the main part of the palace is situated the office of the *Escrivanos*, or Notaries, by whom the government stamps, &c. are sold, and who draw up writings at a moderate expense. The entrance to the palace has nothing about it to announce that you are approaching the chief office of the state, except that a number of soldiers are perpetually lounging about the spot, and on the staircase which leads to the reception-chamber, which has no vestibule, and can only be approached this way, or

through the bed-chamber of the Vice-President. Generally speaking, there is no aid-de-camp in waiting to usher you in, and no servant in attendance of whom you can make inquiry, or by whom you can send your card to the Vice-President; you are consequently compelled to announce yourself by knocking at the door of the Vice-President's bed-chamber, or, by passing through a small anti-chamber you arrive at the reception-room, This room is about thirty-six feet long, and sixteen broad, with sofas around, covered with red silk damask, old and faded; lamps hang suspended from the beams, for there is no ceiling,—which takes away from the majesty of the apartment, and would allow but little idea of a palace but for a throne of the same red damask, a few looking-glasses, and some very bad specimens of the native painters. The Vice-President has for his public business and private residence, six rooms in the palace, and accommodations for his servants. The

ministers of war, foreign affairs, finance, and the interior, have their offices all in the palace, a method I would fain recommend to older established governments, as a means most decidedly tending to despatch of business and general convenience.

The mint is a large plain building. In consequence of the mistaken policy of the government in giving merely a debenture for the uncoined gold brought to them by the natives, instead of returning, as in former times, a proportionate quantity of coined metal, the machinery, &c. of this place is at a stand-still, and its treasury entirely exhausted. I would venture to recommend to the consideration of the Republic the impolicy of this step; for if, as formerly, they gave their coined gold for the gold dust brought to them, they would soon form a rich treasury by the quantities that would be produced by the people, who now keep back

their gold, and consequently can only dispose of it at a very great loss, or else keep it in hand, which prevents them from hiring more negroes to work their mines, or even to support those they have; in fact this measure paralyzes every branch of the state, inasmuch as it gives a check to industry, and creates mistrust.

There are three sets of barracks, formed from the old and forsaken monasteries; and two quartels, one for the militia in the Grand Plaza on the left of the Cathedral, the other in the square of San Francisco for the President's body-guard when off duty. There is a mestranza, or artillery depot, where all military furniture and equipments are made, but in a style which would be much benefited by aid of European workmen to direct and improve the whole. This is the only place in Bogotá where any repairs can be made to articles of European fabric.

The theatre is a well-constructed building, and its interior arrangements are better than might be expected: it is not difficult to hear in any part of it. The boxes are all let to families; but for two reals you gain admission to the pit, which is half covered with chairs, and the back part left for standing room; the company is mixed, but orderly and well behaved. A soldier parades up and down during the performances, but I never witnessed any opportunity for his interference. It is the custom to walk from the pit to the boxes, and chat with any parties you may know; and all strangers of respectability pay their compliments during the evening to the Vice-President.

The performances are on feast-days only; the actors decidedly bad: sometimes the students of the college perform, and of course attract a crowded audience. The natives

are much attached to theatrical amusements, and I am convinced, when their means will afford it, they will procure actors from Europe until their native talent is improved, which, as they are not deficient in natural ability, will doubtlessly be accomplished.

The streets, after the manner of the old Spanish towns, intersect each other at right angles. There are four plazas and squares: the rest of the houses are built in what are termed *quadras.* The principal streets are the *Calle Real,* and *San Juan de Dios;* the former has a paved footway on both sides of the road, the latter only on one: these are the chief resorts of the fashionable loungers, and lead to the *Alameda,* or promenade. The streets, east and west from the mountains, have streams of water running down them, which empty themselves into the small rivers of San Francisco and San Augustin, (so called from the convents whose walls they lave,)

and over which are five bridges. The roads are paved with a small species of stone, and incline from the side towards the centre, down which the water-channels are made, and not at the sides as with us. The principal *plaza*, in which the daily market is held, has on one side the cathedral, and the chapel attached to it, and on the other the palace of the President, &c.; on the North side, private houses, with shops beneath; and on the South, the Quartel of the Militia, and the Record Office.

The grand market-day is Friday; the market is held in the principal square, and is crowded sometimes to excess. From the platform of the cathedral you have a fine view of the whole busy scene; there you see the poor Colombian anxious to purchase the good things which the means his purse affords will scarcely permit, and, on the other hand, the healthy looking seller, (generally a

native of the surrounding country) anxiously endeavouring to enhance the value of his stock, and, almost with the dexterity and cunning of a Jew, disputing to the last farthing—indeed, sometimes allowing you to depart in the hopes of your return, in which case he is sure to obtain the price he last named. It sometimes happens, in the middle of such scenes as these, that a tinkling bell announces the approach of the *Host*, when they have been administering extreme unction to some departing soul: instantly all marketing proceedings are stopped, and the vast assemblage are all seen on their knees—it is fortunate for those who have got a dry spot to spread their handkerchiefs on, for down they must go, and then all most devoutly commence crossing themselves, and each recommending himself to his patron saint. As the Host advances up the platform to enter the cathedral, the town-guard, which is quartered in the square, turns out, likewise the Vice-

President's guard; the whole present arms, and the drums beat a salute. The only people seen standing are foreigners, whom they do not compel to kneel, but who are obliged to take off their hats. I have however seen a priest walking under the holy canopy, whose expression of countenance said, "You heretics, I would make you kneel if I dared!" and who seemed to mutter between his teeth, "these are the fruits of freedom and a patriotic revolution." "Yes, thank God!" at such a moment I have thought, "bigotry and superstition will soon be driven away from this fine portion of the world, and your infamous deeds, O Roman Catholic clergy, will be put a stop to! No longer will you be allowed to go on deceiving mankind! No longer will you be allowed to hold them subject to the most dreadful bondage that human barbarity could invent;—such was your Inquisition abolished in this Republic;—the main stone of your building is gone, and

not far distant is the day when your whole edifice will lie crumbling in the dust."

The market is well supplied with meat, consisting of beef, mutton, and pork. The beef and mutton are tolerable, but far inferior to English, the grain of the meat being coarser, the people not understanding how to fatten animals for killing; the pork is generally of a dark tinge, and very strong, consequently disagreeable to an European stomach; the natives however, I think, consumed a greater quantity of it than of either beef or mutton. Beef is sold in the market at three-pence a pound; mutton, two reals (one shilling) a quarter; pork, at three-pence. The whole is badly killed, and worse cut up, so much so, that I looked out for a butcher who did not frequent the market, and who had learned to kill in the English manner. The price of the meat was consequently increased, but then, besides being better killed,

it had been carefully fattened. Poultry is reasonable, being from nine-pence to one shilling for a good fowl, and sixpence for a large chicken. There are but few vegetables at present; potatoes, *aracatchas, tomatas,* and salad being the chief. However, all European vegetables would thrive well; and ere long, I trust, all kinds of seeds, properly prepared, will be sent out for sale to that country. Indeed, few speculations in the small way would pay better than taking a small estate, or farm, close to Bogotá, and laying it out as kitchen and fruit gardens; one or two common gardeners would be enough to direct the whole, having labourers of the country under them: there would be a sure demand for all the produce.

Here you meet with fruits of every climate, and in considerable perfection. The oranges, pines, figs, grapes, and granadillas are good; the cherrymoieau is excellent, a fruit that

eats not unlike rich strawberries and cream. They are here, I think quite equal to the cherrymoieau of Peru, so much esteemed by all travellers. The wild mountain strawberries are equal to those of Europe, and all European fruit would thrive in the neighbourhood of Bogotá, especially gooseberries and currants, which at present are not known there. Every species of fruit and vegetables that comes to market is reasonable, and in great abundance.

Here are likewise some of the manufactures of the country, all made by hand, consisting of coarse blankets, roanas, or cloaks, made nearly square, with a hole for the head to go through in the centre, coarse cottons for shirting, and the same striped for making trowsers for the lower class; besides these, they sell straw hats made in the neighbourhood, but which do not boast much neatness or durability; they have

however, the recommendation of being cheap, costing only two shillings and sixpence each.

Attempts have been made at pottery, but this is yet in a primitive state, chiefly consisting of a reddish-coloured clay, formed into jars, and large vases for water, also pots for cooking, and some flat plates; they appear however inferior to the aboriginal Indians in this branch of trade, as some of the vessels dug out of the Indian graves are much superior. The Indians formed theirs supported by animals, and beautifully painted. —The market commences at day-light, and is generally over by noon.

There are many fountains in the city, some large, and those in the plazas are handsome, but are much out of repair at present; to these the inhabitants send for water, and servants carry in their hands a long reed,

which being fitted to one of the many spouts from which the water flows, serves as a conductor from the fountain to the pitcher, which, being filled, the servant puts on his shoulder and carries home. The natives are very particular in the purity of their water, and frequently send for it from a considerable distance from their residences, that they may obtain it from the clear and sparkling springs, which are finer in some particular districts.

The streets are very badly lighted: one feeble glimmer from a paper lanthorn at the end of each *quadra*, just serves to render darkness visible, and, unless the moon is up, the place is enveloped in obscurity. My friend Colonel Manby, who so gallantly distinguished himself with his brave Albions in aiding the cause of struggling liberty, has laid a proposal before the government for lighting

the streets with gas, which was under consideration when I left the country.

The shops are generally right and left of the entrances to the principal houses, for which purpose the ground-floors are sacrificed, the dwellings being always up-stairs in the first floor, and the windows over those of the shops; above the front entrance are the apartments of the family, on the side within the court-yard are the best rooms, and, facing the entrance, the servants' offices, &c; there is in some of the largest houses a second court beyond, which is devoted to offices, stables, laundries, &c. We paid at the rate of three hundred dollars per annum for the unfurnished house we inhabited. The shops are very small,—all retail with very few exceptions.

The houses are low, in consequence of being subject to the shock of earthquakes:

they are built of sun-dried brick, covered with tiles, and white-washed; small windows with iron bars, partly gilded, besides larger ones with framework of wood outside; very few glass windows; seldom any ceilings. The doors are of various heights. The rooms and staircases are sometimes painted with handsome borders, with festoons of flowers, and landscapes; and some large houses have the picture of St. Christopher, the patron saint, on the staircase.

The furniture is generally very simple. Every house has carpets, and small ones scattered about the room before the sofas; two small tables, leather-covered chairs, a looking-glass, and two or three lamps from the ceiling. The beds are very neat, but feather beds are not used; wool mattrasses are every where preferred.

A viceroy is reported to have said, that

there were four agents of police in Bogotá, to keep the streets clean; the Gallinazos*, the rain, the asses, and the pigs. In many of the streets the grass has grown so plentifully, from the thinness of population, that it affords grazing ground to the stray cattle. There is not a common sewer in the whole city; but for the sake of health and cleanliness, I trust this will come under the consideration of the government, and no longer be suffered to offend the senses. The manners and customs of the people will, no doubt, become polished in proportion to the increase of knowledge and of the blessings of liberty.

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* Gallinazos are birds of the vulture species, and a most able and useful auxiliary in preserving the cleanliness of the streets, as they carry off all the carrion, which would else be left to putrify and rot where it is thrown by the careless servants, whose habits of life are disgusting, filthy, and highly revolting to European feelings.

The costume of the people is remarkable, particularly that of the females. There is no distinction between rich and poor in the style of walking dress. The mantilla, black or light blue, made *à la mode Espagnole* is worn; a piece of blue cloth envelopes the head, and frequently conceals the whole of the features, except the eyes; this reaches to the waist, and the whole is surmounted with a broad-brimmed beaver hat. This is generally allowed to be a preposterous and unbecoming dress; but as yet no fashionable lady has had the courage to set a new style for the example of her countrywomen. They are sedulously careful to deck their feet in the most becoming manner, and with studied coquetry, as they are in general well formed, and extremely small. Their step is very peculiar, all from hip to ancle without bending the knee; and a sidling motion of the body. How far this adds to the grace of appearance and ease of deportment, I will

leave to abler judges to decide. The lower classes are generally barefooted, except the peasantry of the plains, who wear *alpargatés*, a kind of Roman sandal, made of the fibres of a tree. They wear likewise a full, large mantle, called *roana*, or *roquilla*, made of the cloth of the country; the head passes through a hole in the centre, and the roquilla falls loosely and gracefully over the shoulders, and completely covers the body and conceals the arms. The *tout ensemble* is elegant, as it drops in easy and becoming folds.

Some of the females assume a very peculiar garb; a petticoat of Spanish brown stuff, with a mantilla of white kerseymere, a black beaver hat, and round the waist a broad, black, leathern girdle, one end of which hangs down from the hip nearly to the ancle. They are called *beatés*, and attire themselves in this manner for many reasons, such as the commands of a confessor, the

sickness of a husband, father, or any other relative; but by many it is worn merely from coquetry, and the desire of attracting attention.

The Colombians have many repasts during the day. At seven in the morning they have chocolate; at ten a meal of soup, eggs, &c.; they dine at two, take chocolate again at five, and sup at an early hour. From about three to half-past four they take their siesta, during which time all the shops are shut, the streets deserted, and the whole city in profound silence. Business is carried on from nine till half-past one, and from half-past four to half-past five. Every house has silver goblets, in which the water is handed round to the guests. Napkins are not used, and the table linen is coarse. It is the custom to wash hands after dinner; then smoking is introduced. The servants are generally females, very sluttish and dirty, of a race

between the Indians and Mulattoes. There are very few male domestics, as all the able men were taken off for the supply of the armies.

The emancipation of slaves has been very great at Bogotá, and but few remain. A tax of three per cent. on the property of every individual deceased, goes to the formation of a fund for the manumission of slaves. Voluntary contributions increase these means, and will shortly render Colombia a land of perfect liberty and independence. The first step of the government on shaking off the yoke of enslaving Spain, was to the extent of its power to render the liberty general, and the independence equal, without injury to the proprietors of the negroes. The fund is a certain source of gradual freedom, and ultimate provision for those slaves,—and the course of time will see them all at liberty. I would venture to submit

whether some such plan might not be adopted with beneficial results in our West India Islands, where similar experiments, modified so as to suit particular circumstances, might be productive of similar results.

The law of the 19th of July of the year XI., which has given liberty to all the children of female slaves, which has abolished the trade in negroes, and established the boards of manumission, has been put in force through all the territory of the republic. In December of the same year, (the period fixed by the law for the liberation of the slaves who could purchase it with the sums assigned by the law,) some received their liberty, blessing the legislators of Colombia, who have conferred on them so great a benefit. The number of those who were liberated in last December has been greater, and the government has well-founded hopes that the funds will annually increase.

The greater part of the civilized Indians of Colombia has been, and still is, a class totally degraded. They were reduced by the Spanish laws to a state of perpetual pupilage, and it may be said with truth, that they were the slaves of their priests and their magistrates. Both the one and the other commanded them to be publicly whipped, even though they might be in years, and for the most trifling faults. Thus it is, that living as they did, in a state of debasement and degradation, the energy of their faculties, physical and intellectual, has been completely destroyed. Obliged to cultivate their lands in common, they never have improved them; and without higher thoughts than to vegetate mournfully in their villages, they lived in misery, and with difficulty were able to pay the tribute of from six to nine dollars a year, which all the males were bound by law to pay from the age of eighteen years to fifty.

The first general congress, which was thoroughly informed of the condition in which the natives of the republic stood, and which wished to lay the foundations of the political and civil liberties of the citizens, sanctioned the law which placed the Indians on an equality with the other inhabitants of Colombia; which suppressed the then tributes and the personal labours which had been wrongfully introduced;—the law which provided, in fine, that the *resguardos*, or common lands, should be divided into fee-simple estates within the term of five years. Although this law cannot exalt the present generation of natives from the state of abasement in which they are, by reason of the impossibility of changing a character already decided, there is great reason to hope that they may hereafter improve. The example of the other classes of the state, the mixture which will take place amongst them by means of intermarriages; the instruction which will

be bestowed on the Indians in the primary schools, where their children may learn to read and write; and, in fine, the abolition of the degrading and barbarous practice of whipping them publicly, will, it is believed, have a powerful influence on the improvement of the natives.

There are no laws which can have so powerful an influence over the future destinies of Colombia, as that which has declared the children of slaves to be free, and that of the 4th of October of the year XI., which has placed the natives on an equality with the rest of the citizens. Within the space of fifty or sixty years at the farthest, Colombia will be inhabited only by freemen,—the Indians will have been intermixed with the European and the African races, and a third will spring from them, which experience has shewn will be free from the defects of the natives; and at length the difference of casts will disappear

by degrees from the soil. This is certainly a flattering and a very pleasing prospect; but, for its accomplishment, there is need of various acts of the legislative body to render the original laws perfect, and which the government will point out in their proper time.

The general routine of the day at Bogotá commences with mass, which is attended by females and old men,—the men in general not giving themselves much trouble on this score. The women keep the house during the day, attending to domestic concerns, or lounging on their sofas. About half-past five they attend the Alameda, whence they return to receive visits until nine or ten o'clock, at which time they retire to bed.

The usual amusements for the ladies are, *tertullias*, balls, masquerades, and the numerous processions of the saint and feast days,

which latter tend not a little to render the people idle, their number, including Sundays, amounting to one hundred and eighty; but the congress have it under consideration to reduce them as nearly as possible to the number of festivals celebrated in Protestant countries. In addition to these diversions, the gentlemen amuse themselves with bull and cock-fighting, in which much money is lost and won; games of chance are also played, and public dinners occasionally given; but, in consequence of the small fortunes of the majority of the people, these are very rare.

The modes of conveyance are confined, by land, to mules, and by water, to canoes, or piraguas; the latter mode will be much improved by the use of steam vessels, and the former, in the course of time, when new roads are formed, will be rendered convenient. The territory of Colombia being divided in all

points by the lofty ranges of the Andes, and their numerous ramifications, almost all its roads are through mountains, which oppose very great difficulties either to the opening or the repairing them. From hence it proceeds, that throughout the vast territory of the republic there is not a single carriage road;—all are bridle roads, and very bad, particularly in the rainy season. The country will admit of new roads, safe and practicable, being formed for a considerable distance, but at present there is no passing in any vehicle more than a mile or two out of Bogotá. The Viceroy formerly had a carriage; but there is none now in the country, and only two gigs in the capital. There are in the plains a few clumsily contrived cars, with solid wheels, for carrying timber, but these can only be used from Facatativá to Bogotá, and even then frequently stick fast in the mire. They are constructed on the same model as those in

some parts of Spain, which were so made, that the tremendous noise of the creaking wheels might give the custom-house officers timely notice of the approach of smugglers; or, in fact, might occasion the prevention of smuggling, by summoning the officers to inspect each car, which announced its coming most audibly.

In consequence of the great decrease in the commerce of the country, (which is however reviving,) a natural effect of the revolution, the correspondence is not considerable. A courier goes out every week to one of the three great divisions of the republic, and returns in like manner. Mails go and come from and to Carthagena, and to and from Bogotá, three times each month. They leave Carthagena every 10th, 20th, and 30th. They are nineteen or twenty days from Carthagena to Bogotá, and about ten days from Bogotá to Carthagena with the stream; and in this

course is the most direct communication with England.

The mails are slow but safe. The mail bag is conveyed on a mule, or horse, from Carthagena to Barranca; at this place there is a small canoe, or boat, which receives the bag, and goes to Honda, where mules, or horses, are used again to reach Bogotá. There is only one man employed as guard, distinguished by a red band, who conducts the mail. The mail coming from Bogotá, in the province of Antioquia, carries money, and receives one and a half per cent. for freight or transport. Although the mails have no escort, and convey immense wealth, there is not a single instance of their having been plundered or arrested,—a striking proof of the natural honesty of the natives.

CHAPTER X.

BOGOTA'—THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA —CONGRESS—NARIÑO.

THE government of Colombia is divided into three separate bodies,—the legislative, the executive, and judicial powers.

The first is composed of the Senate and Chamber of Representatives, and the sanction of both is absolutely necessary to enact or establish any law, which may be proposed by either, excepting that the House of Representatives proposes and decides on all laws relating to levies, taxes, or imposts.

The cry for universal suffrage and political equality, which has been so vehemently vociferated in Europe, has never reached Colombia, where the sole, the unanimous desire is independence, united with that reasonable and practicable liberty which the situation of the republic can allow.

The people use no controul but in the first elections, — and then those only who have property to a certain amount, or of particular professions or employments, without dependence on any other person, either as servants, labourers, or journeymen. These, properly qualified as above, elect in each department two persons for five years, who, united in the principal city of the district, form what is termed the Electoral College, and nominate the members of the senate, and those of the Lower House. The government possesses that preponderance which it should

have in every well regulated state, and throughout the whole republic there is not a single person of sufficient influence to endanger the public tranquillity, even if so inclined. By the law of the land, no man can have a vote in elections after the year 1840, who cannot read and write, which measure is an additional excitement to improvement throughout the country.

In the general elections, each province or district elects a fit representative for every thirty thousand of population; in particular elections, if there is an excess of fifteen thousand souls, a second member is likewise named: this method of proportioning one member to every thirty thousand will exist until the number of members shall amount to one hundred; nor will they increase in number until the proportion of souls rises to forty thousand for each representative; but when that period arrives, they will go on increas-

ing to the number of one hundred and fifty members.

To be qualified as a representative, it is necessary to be an elector, and a resident, or native of the province for which you are chosen; a two years' residence immediately previous to your election, and the possession of an income of five hundred dollars per annum, an estate worth two thousand dollars, or the profession of some science, are required.

Foreigners may be elected after eight years' residence in the republic, if possessed of an estate of ten thousand dollars.

The representatives are elected for four years only.

This Lower House possesses the exclusive privilege of impeaching before the Senate, the President, Vice-President, and Ministers

of the Supreme Court of Judicature, in cases where their conduct may be deemed prejudicial or injurious to the commonwealth.

The various departments each nominate four members for the senate, and they are elected for a period of eight years, but at the expiration of the fourth year, one-half of each department retire, which is decided by lot, and their places are filled by newly-elected senators.

A senator must be thirty years of age, and be a qualified elector, a resident in, or native of the department for which he is nominated, and must have resided in Colombia for three years immediately prior to his nomination. He must have a property of four thousand dollars, an income of five hundred dollars per annum, or be professor of a liberal science.

Foreigners, to be elected as senators, mus have estates equivalent to sixteen thousand

dollars, and have dwelt in the state twelve years.

It is necessary for any person desiring to get a bill passed, to enclose it in a letter addressed to the senate; this is opened by the secretary, and communicated to the President, who informs the members, and begs to know if they will consent to its being referred to a committee; if assent is given to this, the committee is immediately named, who consult in private and make a report of the contents, which are publicly read in the senate: the question is then put, whether it shall be discussed; if this be agreed on, the bill is read for the first time the day following. During the first and second readings, between which one day at least must intervene, but little debate takes place, the discussion being deferred until the third reading, when it is fully and impartially canvassed and the voting takes place; if two thirds of the mem-

bers present concur in opinion, their voices decide the question. Being thrown out, no proposition for a law can be presented again until the next year; nor can any law passed be rendered effective in the first instance, until signed by the executive power; and if their consent is denied, the proposed measure must be sent back to the chamber whence it had its origin, within ten days after receipt, with the alterations and amendments required. It is then discussed anew, and if assented to by the majority required, it then becomes a constitutional law, although not signed or approved by the executive power: —So that, in reality, the executive has no *absolute* vote, nor the power of proposing a law, but merely that of presenting *matter* for deliberation, and which may pass into a law.

The President, Vice-President, and Ministers of the Supreme Court of Judicature, secretaries of state, &c., are excluded from the

body of legislature in either house, as their powers are limited, not to the proposition of measures, but to the carrying into effect those that pass into law.

The executive power is vested in a President, who must be qualified for a senator,—he is elected for four years, and can only remain in power eight years, before the intervention of some other President.

There is also a Vice-President, who performs the President's functions in case of absence, withdrawing, or death.

The President of the senate acts in the absence of both.

The President has a council of assistance, consisting of the Vice-President, one of the members of the Supreme Court of Judicature selected by himself, and the secretaries

of state, who are five in number, those of *hacienda*, or finance, war, foreign affairs, the marine, and the interior. The secretaries of war and marine are now united in the person of Colonel Briceno Mendez.

Through the medium of the secretaries, the orders are issued by the executive to the subordinate authorities, and it is their duty to give all information in their respective departments.

The third power is the judicial, and in the least organized state at present, though it is hoped, that at the assembly of the next congress the civil and penal codes will be defined and decided on.

At present five judges at least must be nominated for the election of one, three of whom are proposed to the chamber of representatives by the executive power; two are

then selected, and the senate decides finally upon the individual who is chosen.

The Supreme Court of Justice has the scrutiny and arrangement of the differences of ambassadors, ministers, or diplomatic agents from foreign countries, resulting from any proceedings in the superior courts or tribunals, or from transactions with the executive.

The executive nominates the judges of the "*Alta Corte*," and congress selects and appoints to all inferior courts and offices.

The fundamental laws were received with enthusiasm by the generality of the citizens of Colombia, who saw secured by them the basis and the principles of a well-regulated liberty, for the establishment of which they had combated for so many years. Their publication was, in consequence, every

where accompanied by festivities and public rejoicings, sincere expressions of the approbation and the wishes of the people. The municipal body of the city of Caraccas alone thought fit to make, and publish a protest against its oath,—a protest which the government censured, but which, followed by submission to the constitution, was not productive of the injurious effects which were at first apprehended.

At the same time that the constitution was promulgated in the rest of the republic, the provinces of the Isthmus of Panama, of this important neck of land which separates the waters of the Pacific, and the Atlantic, shook off the yoke of Spain, by the patriotic and simultaneous exertions of its inhabitants. They united themselves voluntarily to Colombia, and requested its constitution and its laws. On being sent to them, they were promulgated and sworn to with the greatest enthusiasm. The constitution, in particular,

was received with the most sincere demonstrations of joy, and hailed as the palladium of their liberty, and future prosperity.

The sessions of the congress are held every day, Sunday excepted, from nine in the morning until two, and in the evening from seven until nine; but in any case of extraordinary emergency the members meet on Sunday. The Senate, or Upper House, has fifty nominated members, and the House of Representatives ninety-five, though all do not attend.

The discussions of both chambers are open to the public, except on very particular occasions; when the meeting is declared secret, all strangers must retire, and the doors are closed.

The meetings of the Senate are held in a long, but narrow and low hall, in the monas-

tery of St. Domingo: the centre is railed off for the members, extending from each side of the President's chair, in straight lines to the foot of the room, where the railing forms a horse-shoe, leaving only sufficient space, in most parts, for one row of spectators; more is not often required, as, except on very interesting points, but few natives attend, or seem to take much interest in any bill the congress may be passing; very good-naturedly supposing, that "whatever is, is right," and that having once had the trouble of returning members to serve in the congress, they are relieved from any more anxiety or concern in the affair.

At the head of the room, on a platform raised about three feet, is placed the President's chair, a fine, stately, ornamented piece of furniture, covered with crimson and gold. In front is a table, ornamented with crimson-velvet, handsomely trimmed with

gold lace, and a cushion of the same, with rich tassels; the steps leading to the chair are likewise covered with a cloth of crimson and gold. Over head is a canopy, decorated with silk hangings, and the arms of the republic fixed in front; the whole having a handsome appearance. From the foot of the platform extend two rows of chairs, for the use of the senators, gilt on the inside of the backs, and having the republican arms and motto "*Ser libre o morir.*" There are also several small tables for papers to lie on, or affording materials and means for writing. About half way down on the left of the President, are the secretary's chair and table, with all the various papers to be read on each day. The room is white-washed, and allegorical figures in water-colours embellish the walls, representing Liberty, Justice, Plenty, &c. &c.; and on the right of the President, is a portrait of Bolivar, placed there by order of the congress.

In the evening, the hall is lighted by lamps hung down the centre of the room. The President has a pair of silver candlesticks; and any member that wishes may have candles on his small table; but with all this, the hall requires to be better lighted, in order to produce greater effect.

The senators are tolerably punctual in attendance, and when the President observes that a sufficient number have assembled, he rings a small bell, silence ensues, he mounts his chair, and the senators take their seats. There are no prayers, as in our English House of Commons, which is remarkable in a Roman Catholic country.

The President desires the secretary to read over the transactions of the previous day, on which casual observations are made, and any requisite amendments or alterations adopted. This done, any matters declared urgent are

read, introduced and discussed; after which the business for the day, as it stands on the list, is read and commented on.

During the session of 1823, the President of the senate, General Urdineta, being unwell, his place was very ably supplied by the Vice-President, Jeronimo Torres, an intelligent, well-informed man, with an easy, solid, and graceful style of speaking, and great firmness in performance of his duty,—at the same time, by the kindness of his manners, avoiding the giving any offence, and conducting every thing in the most gentlemanlike manner. Besides this arduous office, he has another and very unpleasant task, that of presiding at the board of liquidation for determining the debts of the state to foreigners; in which department he has given universal satisfaction, and I know no person who could have been selected equally competent to the duty with this gentleman, who deserves the warm

and united thanks of his countrymen and foreigners.

The first on the right of the President was Padre Briceno, returned by the department of the Orinoco; a man with considerable abilities, and a warm and rapid delivery of speech. He is peculiarly liberal and independent, and particularly watchful that the executive power does not encroach on the liberty of the subject. I have been often much amused by the warm debates between him and doctor Soto, where both evinced much knowledge of the subject, and a vehemence of look and gesture (especially the worthy Padre) that might lead a spectator to imagine them the bitterest enemies; but, on the contrary, they mutually and greatly respect each other, and might be seen, after the session, walking quietly out in friendly conversation.

Opposite the Padre sat the Bishop of Merida, an elderly and reverend man, but a great plague in the congress, being very fond of giving his opinion on all subjects without ever having weighed them previously. He often gets bewildered, and sets the whole chamber in a roar of laughter, in which he has the good sense to join. This in a great measure disarms his opponents, notwithstanding which he sometimes gets severely handled, which he feels at the moment, but it has no lasting effect. By this kind of conduct he considerably retards the business of the house, and a Frenchman very justly observed of him: "Il a été très bon pour l'indépendance, mais il est fort mauvais pour la liberté." With all his public faults he is an excellent private character, and a zealous advocate in support of the rights of the church.

Next to the bishop, sat Nariño, formerly Vice-President of the republic, a great pa-

triot, and an excellent general. He has undergone more sufferings than have often fallen to the lot of any man; in fact, his life has been one of romance.

His abilities were great, he had seen much of the world, and studied men and manners deeply, laying up a vast and useful store of knowledge. He had a good delivery of speech, carrying much weight in his argument, and always preserving the deportment of a gentleman. His private life was highly creditable, and his character much respected.

He was formerly the rival of Bolivar, and wished to form a kind of military government, himself at the head as dictator, as he did not consider the people in a fit state for receiving republican liberty. This gave rise to a bloody civil war, which was of some duration; but the arrival of Bolivar so materially strengthened the republican party, that

he was forced to join the new order of things, and has ever since acted most correctly, and even obtained the esteem of many of those who formerly opposed him in his ambitious projects. At the commencement of this session he did not take his seat, on account of anonymous accusations, made against him in the official paper of the government, charging him with having applied certain public monies to his own use, and which eventually two of the senators stood forward to substantiate. Immediately, therefore, on the meeting of the congress, the senate proceeded to try General Nariño, and as the opening and termination of his address appear to me particularly good, I translate those parts for the benefit of my readers.

"MEMBERS OF THE SENATE,

"This day I present myself as a criminal, before that senate of which I have been nominated a member, and arraigned by

a congress which I myself have installed, and which I myself have caused to be assembled. If the faults of which I am accused had been committed after the installation of the congress, I should not have had cause to consider is as extraordinary; that which is astonishing, is to see men, who were not perhaps born when I was already suffering for my country, charging me with unfitness to be a senator, after having commanded in the republic, civilly and militarily, in the first stations, without any one having ever thought of making such objections.

"But far from feeling this bold step, I give them thanks for having afforded me the opportunity of speaking, in public, on some points which give food to my enemies for their secret murmuring.

"This day every thing will be made clear, and I shall owe to these same enemies, not

my vindication, (which I never have considered necessary,) but the power of speaking of my own actions without shame.

"How satisfactory it is for me, senators, seeing myself to-day (as in other times Timoleon stood accused before a senate which he had created) accused by two youths—accused of malversation, after the services rendered to the republic,—to have the power of saying the same words as Timoleon himself at the commencement of the trial: 'Hear my accusers,' said that great man, 'hear them, senators, — remember, every citizen possesses the right to accuse me, and that in not permitting it, you would give a blow to that liberty, which it is so glorious to me to have given you.'

"The charges which are made against me are:—

" 1st. Applying to my own use sums of money belonging to the treasury department of Diezmos, thirty years since.

" 2dly. Being a traitor to my country, by having given myself up voluntarily to the enemy in Pasto, whither I went commander-in-chief of the expedition to the South, the year 1814.

" 3dly. Not having resided sufficient time in Colombia, according to the constitution; having been absent for my own pleasure, and not on the business of the republic.

" I will not commence, senators, to answer these charges by *imploring* (as is commonly done) your clemency, and that compassion which every *unfortunate* man claims; no, senators, I should disgrace myself, if, after having passed all my life labouring in order to establish the empire of the laws

amongst us, I should now come, at the end of my career, to solicit that they should be violated in my favour. Justice, severe and impartial, is all I demand at this moment, when I throw my actions open to the whole world, to the first body of the nation, and the highest judicial power which it possesses. May the axe of the law fall on my neck, if I have at any time swerved from the duties of a just man, which I owe to my beloved country, or to my fellow-citizens! May public indignation follow after the sentence of the law, to confound me, if, in the course of all my life, there is one only action which refutes the pureness of my acknowledged patriotism. Neither will there be brought to my succour, documents that might be obtained by money, by favour, or by authority; those which I shall present to you, are written between heaven and earth, in sight of all the republic, to the hearts of all those that have known me ex-

cepting only a small number of individuals of the congress, who do not see them, because it is their interest not to see them."

The general then went on to disprove the charges, and having done it most satisfactorily, he finished with the following words;

"At the sight solely of this manuscript,* presented to the Real Audiencia at a period when, as it is observed in the eighty-fifth page, only the English nation, and that of Denmark, had an idea of the administration of that science which fixes the rights of the people and the power of sovereigns; at the sight of the principles of liberty, possession, security, equality, tolerance, national sovereignty, and rights of America therein written; and at the sight of the reflections and

* A document presented to the royal audience of the kingdom of New Grenada, when the general was accused of revolutionary opinions.

documents, which presented themselves in the defence itself, the public will decide if the author merits the shameful paragraphs by which some of the public papers have sought to wound him, during the last year and a half. But that which is most extraordinary of all is, the contrast of the two accusations on the same subject of defence. Who would have thought in the year 1795, that America would emancipate herself in my lifetime? that she would put in practice the principles that I published in defence of the rights of man? and that this same publication should serve as a document to vindicate me in an entirely contrary cause? But the country, *this* country, to which I have consecrated all the pains of my life, will at least do justice to my memory when I no longer exist.

" May she then, in the midst of liberty and opulence, receive the vows which I at this

moment pay her, in the same manner as I now prove those which in other times I made her."

The President of the senate then put to the vote the following resolution: "That the senate declares valid and consistent the election of General Nariño to the duty of senator; and unfounded, the accusations in opposition to his election; the which ought at no time to be a blemish on his fair name and fame." This resolution was carried by a majority of thirteen to one, and this one dissenting party was not present during the delivery of the General's defence.

[1] General Nariño, this ornament to his country, is now no more; he died in the town of Liva, a few days' journey from Bogotá, in the latter end of the year 1823, regretted by the whole republic, who have

already in part acknowledged his merits by giving him a public burial; and I have no doubt, when the finances of the country will permit, but that a suitable monument will commemorate the existence of a man, who suffered so much in the service of a country to which he was devoted.

Amongst the other members, Dr. Soto is the best speaker. He is the Canning of the Colombian congress; he is a deep-read, well-informed man; catches the whole of a subject he wishes to speak on at one glance, arranging and classing the different parts well in his own mind; beginning in a quiet, mild manner, gradually, as his subject increases in interest, augmenting his own warmth, and at last bursting forth into a strain of fervid eloquence, which would even do credit to a British House of Commons, and by which he is almost always sure of

convincing his hearers. He has a peculiar facility in reply, and some humour, but is deficient in grace and personal appearance.

Señor Hurtado (senator from the department of Panama, and now minister to the Court of London,) must not be forgotten. He is a person who has had considerable advantage over most of the chamber, having seen a good deal of the world, and received an enlightened education. His various knowledge was consequently both useful in, and out of the Senate House. He is applied to on most points, and a better commentary than I can possibly make on his merit is, that his countrymen appointed him minister to this country, considered by all Colombians as the situation most united with their own interests which they have to bestow,—since Great Britain is every thing to Colombia; and I am convinced the benefit will be reciprocal, and I trust Señor Hurtado will yet have the happiness of

transmitting the account of the recognition of Colombian independence by this country, which will, if possible, bind the two nations more closely together than they are even at present.

The senate is deprived of the abilities of two of its most eloquent members, Los Señores Gual and Castillos, who, being appointed ministers of state, cannot take their seats in the senate, it being contrary to the laws of the constitution. Occasionally, when the executive wish to communicate with the congress, or the congress wish to ask questions of the executive, these ministers have to attend, according as the subject is connected with foreign affairs, or finance.

During my stay, Señor Gual had to speak on two subjects, emanating from the executive, both of which he handled particularly well, and obtained the points he contended

for. The one was vindicating a treaty entered into of offensive and defensive alliance with the republics of Buenos-Ayres, Chili, and Peru; the other was pressing the necessity of granting General Bolivar permission to embark for Peru, to conduct the war in that quarter.

This latter was a particularly interesting subject, as most fairly a great deal might be said on both sides of the question. Some argued thus: Is it prudent to permit the departure of our Liberator to such a distance as Peru, when a great part of Venezuela and Maracaybo are still in the possession of our enemies, who keep the whole district in alarm? And shall we not be entering into an expense which the state cannot afford? Señor Gual, in answer, combatted these points with great effect and eloquence; the purport of his argument was: 'First, the honour that would accrue to Colombia for taking so bold

a measure—in being actuated with such liberal feelings of patriotism; not content with freeing herself, but determined not to sheath her victorious sword whilst any of her allies were suffering under the despotism of the Spanish yoke. He then pointed out that this expedition was actually most closely united with the safety of Colombia herself; "For," said the minister, "what will be the consequence if the old Spaniards are victorious in Peru? Why, the next thing they do will be to attack this republic, and carry war into her bosom. How much better, therefore, is it for us to join with the patriots of Peru, and not run the chance of allowing the Spaniards to beat us in detail. Let us carry war to their thresholds, and oblige them to support our troops, instead of waiting to repel their attacks; and as to a fear of the Spanish force in Venezuela and Maracaybo, it is chimerical. The places they have possession of, cannot much longer hold out, and Spain is not in

a fit state to protect herself, much less to send out any reinforcements to this country."

The arguments of Señor Gual gained the permission for Bolivár that was required, and which, I am convinced, will be of the greatest consequence to the republic of Colombia. He is certainly the most graceful orator I have heard; has a good voice, and an easy flow of words, evincing considerable animation when the subject requires it.

From the Senate, in the course of a minute, you can transport yourself to the House of Representatives, which directly faces it. They occupy a longer hall than the Senate, fitted in the same manner, except that the president's chair is in the centre of the room, with a portrait of Bolivar in front. In this chamber there are three secretaries, who likewise vote as members: they sit directly opposite the President.

The President was Señor Caycedo, a man highly and universally respected, — a perfectly disinterested patriot. Being a man of considerable property, he cannot be suspected of any interested motives of action. He is aware of the advantages that will accrue to his country by the introduction of foreign capital, industry, and talent, and assists every foreigner with the zeal of a just and enlightened mind; and personally interests himself to remove prejudice from the minds of many, whose little knowledge of the world, and the interest of their country, would cause them to do irreparable injury to the republic. This conduct I have myself, in several instances, witnessed, and am convinced he deserves the thanks of foreigners in general, and of British subjects in particular.

VI. There are two parties in this house, which is not the case in the Senate. They have

obtained the names of the Mountain party, and the Valley party. The former, so named from being returned to serve in congress from the mountainous district, are chiefly priests, several of whom have been named according to the spot they come from: such as Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, &c. &c.; and some of these names have not fallen badly on the individuals so designated. This is the smallest, but most illiberal party, and indeed carries no weight in the chamber. The liberal, or Valley party, so named from coming from the lower districts, is numerous, and not without priests, some of whom are men whose liberal sentiments would do honour to any country.

There are some good speakers, but, taken as a whole, by no means equal to the Senate. I cannot forbear expressing my admiration at the general decorum observed in both

houses. A stranger would never suppose that this was the *first* constitutional congress, every thing being so very well, and orderly conducted, as to reflect the highest credit on the nation; thus holding out a convincing proof to the world of what they will some day become.

A good deal of mirth was created one morning in the Senate. The secretary had retired for a moment for a paper, when a *padre* of the Mountain party rose, and, with much preface and great solemnity, proposed that the city should henceforward resume the ancient title of Santa Fé, as tending to evince its gratitude to Heaven for accorded mercies, and divine deliverance. All the Valley party shouted with laughter and mirth at this most ridiculous proposition, and called loudly for a division as to its discussion, which proved thirty-two against four-

teen, by which the priest lost his momentous question, to the infinite amusement of the liberal party.

The members generally have great facility of expression, which was not to be expected from men who had never studied or prepared for public speaking, or even addressed a large assembly; but all rise with composure, and generally deliver their sentiments in a clear and easy manner. They do not speak long at a time, but go to the main facts at once, without circumlocution, and do not, as in our House of Commons, talk for the sake of gaining time. As yet, they are real, unsophisticated patriots, and God grant that corruption may never grow up amongst them!

CHAPTER XI.

BOGOTA'— SUNDAY — FÊTE DIEU—SOCIETY IN GENERAL—PARTY AT THE PALACE.

With the earliest dawn of Sunday morning the bells of the various monasteries and churches begin ringing, and masses commence and continue, with very little intermission, during the whole of the day. From ten to twelve the Calle Réal is thronged with the inhabitants; at every corner are groupes of citizens and officers, anxiously listening to the reading of the Sunday's Gazette, or any new and interesting pamphlet that may have issued from the Colombian

press; every political point is discussed with much animation and gesture; but nothing unpleasant arises from this freedom of debate, where every man expresses his sentiments without offence, for they have a mild temper naturally, and too much good sense to quarrel for difference of opinion. To me it was a spectacle highly gratifying, to see the lately-oppressed and subjugated native, now boldly and fearlessly assuming his right, as a man and a citizen, to discuss the conduct and intentions of the governors of the state, and the general policy pursued towards other countries: it is by such means as these alone, that a pure and upright government can be preserved in any state, when every man has his claim to impartial discussion acknowledged and allowed. How different is this from the government whose yoke these high-spirited men have so lately shaken off! Under that influence, the man who dared to impeach their conduct, or

comment on their proceedings, was immured in some dungeon of the execrable Inquisition, there to linger out his existence in a total absence from light and air, if it were not shortened by the Auto da Fé, one of the mild and gentle engines by which the mother church of Rome corrected her erring children; and by their example deterred others from political and religious sinning.

A stranger wishing to attend mass at the most fashionable hour, should repair to the Calle Réal a little before twelve, at which time the church bell of the monastery of St. Domingo rings; by taking a station in a balcony opposite to the door of this church, you have a full view of the gay world;—here you perceive the young military officers ranged in lines, through which the ladies have to pass, and undergo the scrutiny of their eyes: an infliction, by the way, to

which I could not discover that any objection was made. The ladies appear dressed in black silk, with a mantilla of the same material, which covers the head, and a round black hat of the country. This dress was originally intended to be very plain, and peculiarly adapted to devotion, inasmuch as the eyes should not be attracted by the exterior of any one, but entirely engrossed by the devout purposes of attendance; but time has greatly altered the original costume, which is now the reverse of simple and plain, being frequently particularly elegant, and sometimes actually gaudy,—the present custom being to trim the dresses with a profusion of lace, black beads and bugles, and frequently long laces of threaded bugles hang in straight lines all round the dress, from the height of the knee, and at other times they are gracefully formed into festoons; these dresses are consequently expensive. Many of the lower class, in endeavouring to imitate their

richer neighbours, make a grotesque appearance, being dressed in a gay gown, without the accompaniment of shoes or stockings. It is customary to wear white silk stockings with these black dresses, and often coloured shoes, which we Europeans should consider bad taste.

On these occasions a lover watches his opportunity for following close after his fair enslaver, and kneeling beside her, their ideas partake rather more of terrestrial, than celestial subjects. Soft whispers convey tender sentiments and mutual wishes, and these places of devotion become the medium of assignations, by no means likely to improve the morals of the country.

At the conclusion of mass, the ladies have, in retiring, to endure the same ordeal as on their entry, as but few men attend the mass, unless they have some particular object in —

view, some 'metal more attractive' than devotion. After mass it is customary to pay a visit to the Vice-President, who holds a levee on this day, from twelve till two o'clock. There is no servant in attendance to announce you; you merely walk up to the general, bow, and retire to the nearest vacant seat; conversation then becomes general, easy, and unembarrassed. The Vice-President, General Santander, is above the middle height, strongly made, of a dark complexion, with penetrating black eyes; he wears his hair very long, which, together with large whiskers and mustachios, gives him rather a stern appearance, though I have heard him mentioned in his military and public life as an agreeable man; he is generally dressed in uniform, and sometimes appears in a sky-blue surtout, embroidered like a French marshal's dress-coat; he is an intelligent man, has a great deal of natural acuteness, and is

particularly sedulous in his attention to the business of the state—in diplomatic writing he is said to shine.

General Francisco de Paulo Santander was born at Cúcutá, and educated at the college of Bogotá for the profession of the law, which he left to become a subaltern in the patriotic army of New Grenada; and afterwards made one of the few Grenadians who followed Bolivar to the plains of Venezuela, in his fallen fortunes, when Morillo possessed himself of the kingdom of New Grenada.

His mother and sister (the latter now the wife of Colonel Briceño,) remained in Bogotá, and on account of their patriotism were in very straitened circumstances, but were still enabled to give, from time to time, very important information to Santander, respecting

the state of the kingdom. On the approach of the Patriots, they, becoming suspected, were obliged almost literally to bury themselves alive, to escape the fury of that horrible monster, the Viceroy Santano. From this state they were only released (by the entrance of the Patriots) just in time for the son to receive the last breath of his patriotic mother, who had contracted an incurable disease from the dampness of her hiding place, and who declared that she was happy in having lived long enough to see her country free!

At the close of the successful campaign of 1819, General Santander was promoted to the rank of General of Division, and appointed Vice-President of New Grenada, (or Cundinamarca, as it was then called,) by General Bolivar, and was afterwards elected Vice-President of Colombia, by the Congress of Cucutá; both which situations, by his talents

and conduct, he has proved that he highly merited: and to his unparalleled exertions in supplying Bolivar with resources, under the most difficult circumstances, may be mainly attributed the glorious successes of Carabobo, and Pichincha,—the one giving liberty to Venezuela, the other freedom to Quito.

On quitting the Vice-President, it is the etiquette to visit the different ministers, and chief members of the congress. I therefore proceeded to pay my respects to Señor Gual, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs; he is considered a man of talent, and has seen more of the world than the other ministers, having, I believe, visited Europe, and passed a considerable time in North America. He speaks the English language fluently; appears to have employed the time he spent out of his country to the greatest advantage, and seems perfectly acquainted with the present

state of his native land, its resources, and the means by which it may be improved, and rendered prosperous.

From thence I went to Señor Castillos, the Minister of Finance; he is an elderly man, and has suffered materially, both in body and property, by the revolution. He has read much, and still dedicates much time to reading, notwithstanding his arduous and engrossing duties. He is possessed of extensive knowledge, and an easy flow of language. His house, of an evening, is the general rendezvous of the best informed people, and I have there passed many agreeable evenings, observing the progress of knowledge in this new state, and picturing in my "mind's eye" the pitch of greatness to which it may be eventually elevated.

My next visit was to Señor Restrepo, Minister of the Home Department, a good

looking, well-educated, polite man, about forty, having the appearance of a gentleman in his dress and deportment. He has suffered much during the revolution, but is now placed in a situation where he is enabled to do much benefit. Even during the government of the Spaniards, he exerted himself greatly in the diffusion of knowledge, and, in consequence, was bitterly persecuted on the breaking out of the revolution; for, as increase of knowledge and desire of liberty go hand in hand, it was the policy of the Spaniards to repress all that might have a tendency to expand the mind, or enlighten the intellect, and to launch their vengeance on those persons, the influence of whose superior talent they dreaded, because they knew its power. The Señor is at present laudably engaged in compiling a History of the Revolution, which, from the share he himself has had in the various events, added to the nature of

his present public employment, which enables him to obtain the most authentic documents, must yield to the world a work of great interest, and perfectly to be relied on, as accurately stating the occurrences that have taken place. He is particularly attentive to the duties of his public office, and extremely obliging in all his communications with strangers. He is a native of the province of Antioquia, which appears to me, generally speaking, to yield many able and gentlemanly men.

This visit over, I betook myself to the Minister of War, Colonel Briceño y Mendez. His appearance is highly prepossessing; he wears uniform; his dress handsome, without being gaudy; his manners good, and he is naturally anxious to please. He appears well informed, and is particularly attentive to the duties of his arduous post, having the direction of the naval, as well as military,

department, which, in these turbulent times, is a duty of no small responsibility, and requiring great personal exertion.

"My next call was on General Urdineta, the President of the Senate, a handsome, agreeable, well-informed man, more resembling an European officer than any other I have met with in the country. He has suffered much in his health from the severity of the service he has undergone, which has prevented his paying regular attention to his senatorial duties; but when his health would permit, he is said to have performed them with great credit and talent. He is in high favour with the public, and stands a fair chance of being some day elected President. He is married to a most agreeable woman, daughter to one of the first families of the place, named Paris, and never have I seen in England more kind and affectionate attention towards an invalid husband, than that dis-

played in the conduct of this lady. She was educated in a good school, under the eye of her grandmother, Donna Paris, a most venerable-looking old lady, whom I now went to see. She was surrounded by her children and grandchildren, ranged in order round the room. It was a scene that would have accorded with the patriarchal times. The whole family are handsome, and two of the little boys might rival in beauty and rosy cheeks, any of our northern youths.

Visits on this day are very brief, and the distances between each of no great extent. I therefore was enabled to get through this round, and be in time to go to the Alameda at three, where I met all the world assembled either on foot or horseback. The Vice-President appeared gaily dressed in uniform, accompanied by many of the first people; it happened to be a feast-day, as well as Sunday, which added materially to

the hilarity of the scene, as I met at intervals groups of peasants, accompanying with their voices some one who was thrumming on his guitar the notes of a national air, expressive of the delights of the "mountain nymph, sweet liberty." These parties, which generally extended directly across the road, had suddenly to make way for the numerous horsemen, coming along at a most furious pacing rate, to excel in which is a great desideratum amongst all classes. A good pacing horse will fetch from three hundred to five hundred dollars, whereas as good an animal, that does not pace, is not sold for more than sixty or a hundred.

At the end of the Alameda, a crowded cottage attracted my eye; with some difficulty I effected my entrance, and found it was a place for refreshment, and that many of the citizens were there making a substantial meal, instead of dining at home, as is

customary, previously to visiting the Alameda. I was solicited to take a seat, which I did, anxious to embrace every opportunity of seeing the various customs of the country. A variety of Spanish dishes were on table, of which I partook; much good humour and merriment prevailed, the conversation consisting chiefly of light jokes on some of the party assembled. Water and *chicha* were the only beverages drunk by the men, and orgeat by the females. After the repast, one of the ladies, who had a guitar with her, played a national air, and accompanied it with her voice, the men uniting in the chorus. My watch announcing the hour when my messmates at home would be waiting dinner for me, I was compelled to quit my merry friends.

The Alameda is an agreeable walk, commanding an extensive view of the neighbouring plain; it requires however to be better kept, and to have a walk raised for the foot

passengers. The hedges on either side are loaded with roses, growing in wild luxuriance, formerly planted by the Spaniards to embellish the walk: there *were* likewise plenty of trees, which yielded an agreeable shade, but anarchy and revolution, which overthrow so much, have perfected their destruction, but it is to be hoped that they will be restored by the present good order and regulation.

The evening is generally spent in visiting from house to house, and sometimes you may succeed in forming a little piano-forte dance, which may be done in a Roman Catholic country on a Sunday evening, without being considered as a sin.

FÊTE DIEU.

The evening prior to the day on which this fête is held, was announced by fire-works from the Grand Plaza, in each corner of which was erected a richly ornamented

84330

altar, by which the procession was to pass. Poles, soaped, with prizes on the top, for men to climb, puppets, and other amusements for the populace, formed a singular mixture with the religious preparations. About eleven o'clock on the following morning, all rejoicings and amusements cease instantaneously at the ringing of the bell which announces the signal for the procession, which quits the cathedral at this time, traverses the best streets and principal plazas, performing a short mass at various altars temporarily erected in the streets. The windows and balconies of all the houses are gaily decorated with coloured cloth, and festoons of flowers, and are crowded with spectators, male and female, dressed in their gayest attire.

The procession is commenced by preposterous-sized figures of the animals of the country, made of pasteboard, and moved by men withinside. The alligator and gallinazo make conspicuous figures, and contri-

bute much to the entertainment of the mob, —the former opening its enormous jaws and pretending to bite any persons near, and the latter (whose neck is made twelve feet long,) by means of springs, moves from side to side, making the by-standers scamper about for safety from the attacks of its sharp bill, which sometimes descends with violence on the head of a gaping spectator. Then follow children, strewing flowers before cars drawn by men, in one of which is David, with Goliath's head in his hand; in another Queen Esther; Joseph follows on a superbly caparisoned horse, attended by guards in Roman dresses. The performers in this pageant are all of the best families, and no expense is spared to deck them magnificently with jewels, silk, &c. and much interest and exertion are made to secure a part in the procession.

The clergy next advance, bearing the elevated Host, at the sight of which all fall

on their knees, and remain there until it has passed. Music follows, composed principally of violins and clarionets, playing church music. The prettiest girls of the city walk between two rows of the priests, some bearing vessels, others offerings, some incense, others flower-baskets. Young Indians follow, dancing to flute and tambour, and the whole is closed by soldiers, with their arms and colours reversed. The procession returns to the cathedral about half-past one. The same ceremony again takes place at half-past four, but is confined to the Grand Plaza, round which it parades once or twice, performing again a short mass at each of the altars. The evening concludes with fire-works, and diversions for the people, and a *tertulia* is generally given at one of the principal houses to the higher classes.

This is the most magnificent clerical fête of Colombia, and is got up with all the

splendour of the church; but to English eyes, the peculiar mixture of religious ceremony and grotesque mummery, does not seem in accordance: and I believe it would puzzle even a Roman Catholic to prove the congruity of birds, beasts, and fishes, with altars and the Host. The capital is at present full of priests, monks, and clergy in general, as a law of the government has abolished all monasteries which did not contain a certain number, and compelled their occupants to reside in Bogotá. This stroke of policy is well devised, as it brings the whole clerical body to one focus, and so completely beneath the eye of the government, that all plots or conspiracy, which the majority might be tempted to concert, are easily detected. The body of the church, in general, are attached to the Spaniards, but have sufficient tact and prudence to keep quiet, where resistance and opposition would be fruitless. They brood over their wishes in

silence. Their power fast decreases, and they are fully conscious of it. The natives grow more enlightened by intercourse with foreigners, and by the strong natural good sense and perception which they possess. The government curtails the expenses of the clergy to the extent of its power, by keeping vacant most of the archbishoprics and bishoprics, and by appropriating a considerable portion of the revenues of the church (which report states at two-thirds of the expenditure of the state) towards defraying the expenses of raising and supporting the newly organized troops. There are, however, some priests who have openly espoused the cause of the independent government, and strive to improve the minds and morals of the people, by active exertions and strenuous endeavours; and ultimately the old bigotted part of the clergy will be totally driven from a country which they have so long tended to keep in ignorance, and

deprive of the best blessings of Heaven to man—liberty and knowledge.

The natives, who are not in the government, clergy, or military, generally keep some kind of shop or warehouse, where they attend behind their counters until one in the afternoon. Their retail dealing is by no means an unprofitable concern, as they are seldom content with less than one hundred per cent. by their sales. At one they lock up their shops, and retire home to their dinner and siesta: to these dinners no one is ever invited, the family being the only persons that partake of it, as from their reduced finances set parties are but very few, and their own repasts sufficiently sparing. They have no idea of giving a quiet dinner party in our English style; if they consider themselves obliged to give a dinner to a stranger, they invite a great number to meet him; load their tables with dishes, and

spend in one day what would support their own family a month at least; indeed, should one of the family, not residing in the house, or a particular friend be invited, it is expected that an expensive repast must be prepared. Time and a more general intercourse with foreigners will cure them of this kind of foolish pride, and teach them how to live comfortably, and to entertain their friends without putting themselves to useless expense and inconvenience; and I do not despair of seeing this take place, as they have certainly a desire to adopt English manners and customs, and give a decided preference to every thing English. This may be thus accounted for: first, that for a long period England was the country that furnished them, through Jamaica, (by means of the contraband trade,) with all the comforts or luxuries of life, and consequently gave them a relish for every thing English, and engendered a kindly feeling towards the inhabitants of a country

which supplied all their wants; and, secondly, because the natural turn of a native Colombian much more assimilates with the character of an Englishman than that of any other nation in Europe; for he is reserved, thoughtful, and fond of commercial pursuits. Though polite and desirous to oblige on first introduction, yet, like an Englishman, he requires time, and a knowledge of your character, before he becomes intimate, and then you find him to be an excellent and valuable friend. Kindness of heart is a characteristic of a Colombian, who will put himself to great inconvenience to assist his friend; and once having formed a friendship for a foreigner, he becomes as attached as if he were a member of his family,—which I had the pleasure of experiencing. I have been much gratified in observing the fixed cordiality that exists amongst the Colombians towards each other; intimacy, or the slightest relationship, giving them decided claims to mutual good offices,

they oblige each other by every means in their power, and never refuse any request with which they can possibly comply; thus presenting a striking contrast to the predominant self-interest which so powerfully actuates many of the more civilized European States.

They are, however, I must allow, deficient in enterprize, and prefer quietly plodding on in their old retail way, to engaging in any undertaking that would give them the least trouble, although it might rapidly increase their fortunes.

For those who keep horses, the general custom is to mount about half-past four. The most usual ride is the Alameda, where there are several tolerable *quintas* in the cottage style, and ere long, I have no doubt but that it will be covered with them, as the situation is good, and there is an extensive view of

the plain of Bogotá. General Urdineta was amongst the first to set the example. Besides this ride, there are several others, but all embracing the same view. The scene is rather monotonous, as there are no trees or foliage in the plain to relieve the eye, which wanders over a large extent, and is only bounded in its gaze by the bordering mountains. The most pleasing view is on turning homewards, when the city of Bogotá is seen, and appears singular from its peculiar site and mode of building. In these rides but few natives are met, as they are generally too poor to keep horses; and seldom, except on feast days, or Sundays, do you meet pedestrians, as neither Colombian men nor women are fond of taking much exercise. We generally returned from our equestrian excursion by half-past six, and then choosing a companion, set off to visit some native family, when the scene was nearly as described in Caraccas,—room badly lighted, and the

ladies all seated together in formal order, in one corner, or at one end of the room, but less addicted to the custom of folding their legs under them than in most other parts of Colombia,—foreigners having laughed the young ladies out of a position so devoid of grace. The feet, as well as the head, are generally neatly dressed: the rest of the body is enveloped in a large shawl. I generally managed to break through the stiffness of the party, by inducing some young lady to rise in order to accompany her voice with some national air on the harp or piano-forte; the vacancy caused by her rising was immediately filled up by my companion, whilst I attended the young lady performing; thus all formality and ceremony was destroyed, and good-natured mirth reigned; the young ladies frequently whispering their thanks for separating them from their old grandmammas, as it enabled them to enter more unrestrainedly into conversation. From want of edu-

cation; and those advantages which the old world possesses, (in having books and materials for forming the mind, of which there is here great need,) conversation soon slackens, and on a repetition of visits you have the same topics every night, argued and re-argued in the same words. This sameness also pervades their music, as they do not play by sight, and would not know a note of music if they had it; the consequence is, that all being retained by the ear, there is no variety; so that a young lady soon exhausts her stock of musical knowledge, and you can only expect a repetition. The women seldom visit each other of an evening, except when specially invited; consequently, you seldom find a family sufficiently large to form a dance; and they do not play at cards.

These stupid parties have, I think, been the cause of a general system of gallantry, which at present is a bar to social and gene-

ral converse, and in fact almost to society itself, as every young man selects the fair one to whom he pays his attentions, and night after night he is found by her side, and does not appear at all pleased if you engage his charmer's attention for a longer period than is actually requisite to return the compliments you pay on entering the room. If forsaken, or neglected for a few evenings, the ladies generally choose a fresh beau, which often creates no small misunderstanding on the return of the former cavalier, who has, perhaps, been sipping at some other flower; he is of course rejected with scorn on his return.

This, as may be supposed, causes the ruin of many a fair female, and introduces such a licentious feeling, that they in general consider themselves, after marriage, especially if their husbands are out of the way, entitled to act exactly as inclination prompts.

I am far from asserting this as without exception, for there are many highly respectable, virtuous, and honourable families; but I fear, speaking of morality in general, that of Colombia is at a low ebb: this I attribute to their vile oppressors, the Spaniards, who left no means untried to debase their minds, and divest them of the nobler feelings of human nature. I am convinced, however, that the time will come, and that it is not very far distant, when education will be generally diffused throughout this extensive country, awaken them to a knowledge of their present errors, and inculcate a system replete with moral virtue; for they are a mild and docile people, with the germ of virtue in their hearts, which needs but cultivation and care to ripen. They are desirous of information, and open to conviction. —Want of money has been the great cause of the wretched appearance of the interior of most of the houses; and indeed where the

possessor had the means, he generally pleaded poverty, and made his house appear worse than his neighbour's, in order to avoid being obliged to lend money to government for the exigences of the state: certainly not very patriotic, but not to be wondered at, when we consider that should any change happen in the government, he would lose his all, and his family would be left to starve, as has happened to many a public-spirited individual. The houses of General Urdineta, Señor Restrepo, Minister of the Interior, and Los Señores Arrublas, are fitted up in a handsome, though not entirely European style, and are always well lighted by globe lamps and candelabras, obtained from England. Here, too, you are sure to meet the best society, and general and agreeable conversation.

General Urdineta and his lady are entitled to the appellation of fashionables;

they would appear to advantage even in our fastidious sphere. He is a particularly handsome man, of a fine figure, well educated, has most accomplished manners, and is as fond of dress as any of our Park dandies. His lady is pretty, lively, agreeable, and appears to great advantage in a ball-room. She is a most excellent wife.

Refreshments are never offered at the usual evening parties; you are only permitted to call for water, which is brought in a silver tankard, and is generally very cool, and of a fine quality.

When a set *tertulia* or dance is given, almost every respectable person is invited; and as these parties are generally much alike, by describing one I attended at the palace of the Vice-President, I shall give an idea of them in general. I arrived on the appointed evening at a little before nine,

the invitation being for eight; and on entering at the grand door-way, proceeded up stairs, passing various guards stationed at every turning. On reaching the anti-room I found it entirely filled by a most noisy band of musicians, in which the drum was very predominant, and by *tapadas*, or ladies either not invited, or who had declined attending the ball, from being too poor to provide dresses sufficiently gay for the occasion. These ladies enveloped their heads in a large shawl, which they crossed over their faces in order not to be known; and often amused themselves by speaking in a feigned voice, exciting curiosity, but not enabling you to find out who they were, unless they chose to discover themselves. At last I entered the ball-room, which I found so crowded that there was scarcely room for dancing. I immediately made my way to the Vice-President, paid my respects, and was then at liberty to do as I pleased

with myself, no further ceremony being required. Whilst the young people are dancing you walk round, and ingratiate yourself with their mammas; and the moment the country-dance (still called Spanish) is over, you must remove to make way for the young ladies, who seat themselves as near as possible to their mothers, so that in taking a detour of the room, you can generally tell, either by dress or features, where one family begins, and another ends. The old ladies at these parties most frequently appear in morning home-dresses, which an English housemaid would be ashamed to pick up. The young ladies, on the other hand, are too gaudily apparelled, being covered with jewels and tinsel. Few, or none, of them have ever had any pains taken to teach them to dance well; and, consequently there is more to laugh at than admire in their country-dances; and it is remarkable to observe that scarcely a woman

is correctly acquainted with the figure, their partners having to conduct them through the mazes of the dance. By some the Spanish country-dance is considered as well adapted to a warm climate; but I think it inferior to quadrilles, both in grace and comfort. In the former, elegance can only be shown in the twisting and twining of the arms and body; and then at a large party you are so crowded, that grace in this particular cannot be observed; you are likewise constantly in masses together, and never for a moment allowed to stand still, which causes far greater heat to be felt than in the graceful movements of a quadrille, where you are allowed more space, and time for rest and conversation. Spanish country-dances and waltzes were the order of the night; in the latter a few ladies excelled. Amongst them was Señora Urdineta, who is one of the best dancers in that country. You are not allowed to walk about with your

partner, but must immediately lead her to her seat, where there is ranged a most formidable phalanx. When you are engaged to dance, on the music commencing, you go and take your place in the dance, and when the whole line of men is formed, the young ladies rise and go to them. This prevents any one going unfairly above another, as no man will allow any intruder to come above him, since he acts for the lady; and no one is allowed to sit down until the dance is finished: this is quite proper. but very fatiguing, as sometimes a country-dance will last an hour. The music plays generally with correctness as to time, but the execution is bad, and the collection of airs very small.

The majority of the women are by no means handsome; they certainly have fine eyes and dark hair,—but neither features, complexion, nor figure are good when compared with those of Europeans. Some few

have, when young, a little bloom on their cheeks, but in general a sallow or Moorish cast of face meets the eye; occasionally you do meet a young lady whose pretensions to beauty would be allowed even in Europe. The one most generally admired is named Bernadina, and is a daughter of a good family. She was about seventeen years of age when I saw her, lively and agreeable, her figure good, and rather above the middle height; amazingly fine eyes, with whose influence she was perfectly well acquainted; jet black hair of luxuriant growth, which she kept always neatly and elegantly dressed; fine regular features, with a charming mixture of red and white, bordering on the most interesting species of brunette; and pearly teeth that shone between her vermilion lips. The women envied her, and the men did right in admiring her, as the fairest specimen of Nature's work they had ever seen.

The men, taken as a body, are far handsomer than the women, and their dark complexions more agreeable to the eye. They are better educated, being generally able to read and write: beyond this their abilities rarely extend, as they are seldom seen reading, and scarcely ever devote any time to study, or improvement of the mind. They are particularly fond of political subjects, which engross their whole attention; but farther than the politics of their own country they do not venture, few being at all competent to discuss, or even contemplate the grand scale of the whole political world. I mean this, relatively speaking, of the body of the nation at large, and not individually, as there are many enlightened men in the executive government and congress, who are fully adequate to the comprehension and discussion of questions of the first magnitude and importance, and who would be an honour to any part of the world.

About eleven, plates were handed round to all the ladies, and a spoon and fork to each; then came large trays with preserves, sweetmeats, and cakes; after that, lemonade, orgeat, punch, and white wine; lastly, water in silver tankards. The men having seen the ladies provided, retired into another room, where they found the same kinds of refreshments for themselves. It sometimes happens that a splendid sit-down supper is given, but in these days of economy it is very rare. After having partaken of these refreshments, dancing re-commenced, and was kept up until one o'clock, when the party broke up and retired, much pleased, to their homes: the separation of such a party being much quieter than in London, as there are no coaches to obstruct the way. Large groups go home together, and traverse the streets by the mild beams of a silvery moon, shining resplendently above the summit of the dark mountains which rise in the rear of the city,

with which she forms a pleasing contrast; at such a moment as this, (for lunar days are always chosen for these parties,) some fair charmer commences a national air, in which the whole group join, and make the sounds of liberty and independence reverberate from street to street. In this happy way each party reaches home, and retires to rest with bright dreams of future felicity.

CHAPTER XII.

BOGOTA' — EXCURSION TO FONTABON — HUNTING PARTY—NEWS FROM ENGLAND —CLOSE OF THE CONGRESS—PEARL FISHERY—FEASTS OF BOYACA' — PADILLA — DEFEAT OF MORALES — GRAND DINNER AND BALL.

DURING my stay I was invited to join a party, formed by the wife of the Minister of Finance, for a short excursion to the village of Fontabon, a small place, about two leagues from the capital. The day was the festival of San Pedro. The company set out between ten and eleven o'clock, on horseback, but I was unable to accompany them at so

early an hour, having letters to write for the post; but by four o'clock I reached the village, and found that my friends were out on a pedestrian excursion.

From the number of holiday folks assembled, the place appeared like a fair in England. Having dismounted, I walked to an enclosure, round which I observed many persons collected, who were amusing themselves with teazing a poor bull, more dead than alive, by shaking and flapping flags and *roanas* in his face; one man, however, more daring than the rest, was knocked down by the persecuted animal; he was not hurt, as the poor beast did not attempt to gore him. Finding no entertainment in this wanton sport, I left the place, and met my friends just returning from their walk.

We all entered the Venta, after having, with considerable difficulty, and no trifling

risk, threaded our way through the troops of horses and mules tied by their bridles to the front of the entrance, and left without any person to attend to them, or remove them, so as to allow of convenient ingress or egress. On the left hand on entering, was the room appropriated to the ladies, containing refreshments, &c.; and in a smaller apartment on the same side, were those gentlemen of the party who preferred gambling to escorting the ladies, and were playing cards with much eagerness, a habit which unfortunately is but too prevalent in the republic.

It seemed to me surprising, and pitiable to observe, how devoted the men (and particularly the more advanced in years) are to gaming. On going for a day's excursion from the capital, immediately on reaching the place of destination, they hurry into a room, cards and dice are instantly produced, and the whole time, until their departure

for home in the evening, with the exception of the dinner hour, is sacrificed to this inveterate and pernicious habit of gambling; instead of diverting their minds, and expanding their intellect by rational conversation, or remarks on surrounding objects or scenery. The ladies are left to their own resources, whilst the men forget all else but the shuffling and playing cards, or the cast of a die, which have more charms for them than society, conversation, or prospect. On the right hand was a room entirely filled with the visitors of all classes, who were amusing themselves with dancing to the music of a guitar and tabor. With some difficulty I effected my entrance, being desirous of satisfying my curiosity, and observing all the customs and habits of the natives. An officer of the republic was dancing the national fandango with a young female. This dance is intended as a dumb representation of courtship. The music begins at first slow

and monotonous, but gradually increases from *andante* to *allegro*. The gentleman commences by pursuing the lady quietly and gently, and the lady retreats in like manner, making short circles, and turning on her heel at each time that her partner approaches, quickening her step and revolutions, as the time of the music increases, until she perceives that he seems inclined to give up the pursuit; repentance follows, and the pursuer is in his turn pursued, making similar retreats, and the same circumvolutions that the lady so recently practised, until at last relenting, he turns to meet her, and they approach each other more closely, and being apparently reconciled, make three or four peculiar stamps with their feet, bow to each other, and retire, tolerably exhausted, amidst the acclamations of the by-standers, to make way for another couple. In these dances females of the first families do not participate, confining themselves to country-

dances, waltzes, and occasionally minuets and boleros.

When the fandangos were finished, the music was brought into the court-yard, and all classes joined in a country-dance. Here was to be seen the lady of the Minister of Finance, standing up between the wives of a tinker and tailor, and a butcher's spouse elbowing one of the first ladies of the capital, — in short, it was a fine specimen of the equality of republicanism. About six o'clock we all mounted our horses to return to the city; the evening was fine, but the ladies generally complained of the keenness of the air, which they felt severely, being only clad in linen dresses, riding-habits not having yet been introduced into the country; they usually ride on Spanish saddles, something in the style of our pillions, though some prefer the English side-saddle. The wind, which was troublesome

to the ladies, seemed to me like that of a fine bracing October morning, only requiring exercise to keep you warm. On arriving at the city, the numerous cavalcade of gentlemen escorted the several parties of ladies to their respective homes, and then separated for the evening.

In the month of July, Colonel Johnston, Colonel Lyster, Colonel Macintosh, myself, and several other Englishmen, formed a hunting party. We started about two o'clock, P. M. and scampered over six leagues of plains west of the city, winding between the mountains; the first part of our journey being through grazing fields, and the latter amidst corn lands, which appeared to infinitely more advantage, as the hills were lower and covered with trees and bush-wood, affording shelter, and giving a much warmer appearance to the whole. On our route we passed through several small villages and

quintas; one of the latter belonged to Señor Umania, the Intendant of Bogotá; it reflects much credit on this gentleman, who has exerted himself to improve the face of the country, which around his abode is very fine, and well cultivated, according to the standard of agriculture in the republic. Shortly after sunset, having been engaged during the last half hour in threading the intricacies of the wood, we reached a farm-house, to the owner of which Colonel Johnston was known, from having been there on previous hunting parties. We were most hospitably received, and our host gave up to us every apartment in the house except the one requisite for himself and family. Our ride had given us an appetite; we called for supper, but our sumpter mules had not arrived, and the farm could only produce bread, potatoes, a few eggs, and some anise; fortunately we had shot several *tórtolas*, a large species of turtle-dove, very fine eating, which feed on the

left in the enclosures, where the horses have been treading out the corn. These we had plucked and roasted forthwith. After supper, those who had hammocks hung them up, others spread *roanas* and saddle-cloths on the hide-stretchers, or on the floor. Colonel Lyster and myself deemed ourselves very fortunate in securing the only bed in the house, on which we soon fell asleep, wrapped up in our *roquillas*, to exclude the cold night air. About eleven o'clock we were awakened by the arrival of the mules, and the majority of us arose to aid in adjusting hammocks for those who had previously been lying on the floor; we then enjoyed a glass of grog each, which even those lazy ones who would not rise, were willing to partake of in their hammocks. We were all soon soundly asleep, but anxiety for day-break frequently awakened me, and I struck my repeater at each time, to the very great annoyance of my worthy friend and bedfellow

the Colonel, who was not so keen for the sport as myself. At last my watch announced half-past four o'clock; I turned out, and in the style of a true boatswain's mate, piped all hands, and despatched the servants with haste to prepare the breakfast, which was concluded by day-break; when, mounting our horses, we set forward to the chase, accompanied by about thirteen dogs of the lurcher breed. The morning air was very keen, but bracing, and auguring a fine day for our sport. At first we ascended a steep acclivity, and on reaching the summit, saw the mist and vapours dispersing from the valleys beneath, whilst the sun rising gilded the peaks of the mountains to the eastward. On descending the hill, we arrived at cover, and about eight o'clock succeeded in starting a fine doe; but being on the borders of a wood, into which she dashed, we had much trouble in driving her out, and she was then so much a-head of the dogs, that she eventually

escaped our pursuit. We found several afterwards, but the cover was so thick, that we were unable to drive them out; the dogs killed one in the wood, but we could not find it.

In traversing this country we found much picturesque scenery, extremely gratifying to the eye; deep glens and ravines, with the mountain brow impending, on which perhaps stood a huntsman looking out for his companions, who, stationed below, were watching for a stag to leap from the forest, at which they might let slip the dog which each generally held. The barking of the dogs, the cheering of the hunters, and the clamours of the country people collected to see the sport, heightened the romance of the scene, although the situation is not well adapted for hunting on account of the abruptness of the precipices, on the brink of which you are compelled to stop, and of

course are thrown out. About three o'clock we returned to a substantial repast, and amused ourselves during the afternoon by shooting *tórtolas* for supper, which we much enjoyed, and talked over a bowl of punch of the adventures of the day, anticipating better sport on the morrow. The next day we proceeded to the *Paramos*, or high table-land, on the left of the valley, where there is but little vegetation. Here we were delayed by a heavy fog which hung on the top of the mountain; we did not lose any time however, but regaled ourselves with Bologna sausages and some spirits which we had brought with us. When the fog cleared, we started several deer, and the *paramo* being level, we had some good runs in sight, but the deer escaped by taking refuge in the woods of the low grounds. On the third day, being Saturday, and a holiday with the farmers, we were joined by numerous other sportsmen and their dogs. With this reinforcement the

whole party succeeded in killing five deer, though unfortunately none of them fell to our dogs. On Sunday we returned to Bogotá without venison, but carried with us ducks, pigeons, and a spoonbill, a species of crane, excellent eating; the appearance of the bird is very handsome, being tinged all over with a vermilion colour. To hunt with any success in this country, it is necessary to go to the mountains, eastward of Bogotá, with a large party, and forty or fifty couples of dogs; and then twelve or fourteen head of deer may be killed each day. I

On the evening of the eleventh of July, the Carthagena post arrived, and brought us intelligence from England up to the fifteenth of April. Amongst other matter, were the speeches of Lord Liverpool, and Mr. Canning, as to the line of conduct which Great Britain intended to pursue with respect to South America. These excited intense inte-

rest; copies of each speech were translated into Spanish without delay, handed about with all possible despatch to every house, and perused with the utmost avidity. The main tenor of the speeches gave satisfaction, though that of Mr. Canning was deemed very diplomatic. The most generally received opinion was, that it admitted of a double construction; that if France attacked South America with any intention of appropriating it to herself, then England would lend her aid to repel the attack; but if France should invade South America in the name of Ferdinand the VIIth, and Spain would guarantee to the powers of Europe that she would not cede her claim to France, in that case, England would remain neutral. I endeavoured to combat these opinions, by arguing that it was (as it really is) the interest of Great Britain to prevent France from subduing the country, under any pretext whatsoever.

The usual sitting of the congress is three months; but this year, in consequence of the great press of business, by a vote of both Houses, the sessions was prolonged thirty days. It terminated its arduous labours (in which it is but justice to say the members were indefatigable in their exertions) on the 7th of August. In the last sitting there was a law passed, granting the exclusive right of the Pearl Fishery of Colombia, for ten years, to Messrs. Rundell, Bridge, and Rundell, of London, being the most valuable grant which the Government has yet bestowed, and which I considered inferior to none, except the cutting the Isthmus of Panama, so as to form a communication, by steam vessels, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; which I have ascertained, from accurate survey, to be perfectly practicable, and have in consequence formed a company in Bogotá, who are to lay before the ensuing congress proposals to that effect.

From official documents, it is ascertained that up to the year 1530, the annual value of pearls obtained from the Atlantic side amounted to eight hundred thousand dollars; at the commencement of the conquest, the island of Coche alone produced one thousand five hundred marks' worth of pearls every month, equal to three thousand dollars, reckoning the mark at eight shillings. Now it must be remembered, that at this period all the mines of America hardly gave two millions of dollars, and that silver was then scarce, and pearls plentiful; the same quantity of pearls would be worth twice the sum, one million six hundred thousand, at the present value of silver. Pearls have in their turn become scarce, and their value necessarily increased; and as the value of silver has diminished, could the same number of pearls be procured as in 1530, their ratio with the present supply of silver would give an actual value of three

millions two hundred thousand dollars of annual produce, and this only from the fishery of the Atlantic side of Colombia; so that there would still remain all the rich fishery in the Pacific Ocean, equal at least to the former, and making the whole annual produce amount to six millions four hundred thousand dollars' worth of pearls. But as only one half the coast on each side is allowed to be fished at a time, the actual annual produce may be three millions two hundred thousand dollars, or six hundred and forty thousand pounds sterling, at the present worth of the dollar. And this is by no means improbable, as it must be remembered, that since 1683 to the present time, being a lapse of one hundred and forty-one years, the fishery has been neglected, so that the oysters are found to have increased most wonderfully; besides, in the Bay of Panama, ravenous fish have of late years appeared, which entirely prevent the divers

going down in particular parts, and in deep water, so that they are obliged to fish and re-fish the shallow beds close to the Islas del Rey; whereas, with the machinery of the Colombian Pearl Fishing Company, nearly every spot in the Bay of Panama may be inspected, without the least fear or danger, and by this means a new era, with respect to the value, size, and quantity of pearls, will commence.

It must also be kept in mind how very much the population of the world has increased since 1530, and that should pearls be introduced into the market at a moderate price, the actual consumption might be a hundred-fold more than is at present demanded.

Amongst the most important enactments of the late session, are:—

1. A law granting the exclusive right of navigating the Magdalena with steam vessels, to certain individuals, under certain conditions.

2. A law for establishing a copper currency, to a certain extent.

3. A law decreeing the universal adoption of public schools throughout the republic.

4. A decree for facilitating the grant of lands to colonists, with particular privileges.

5. A law tending to promote and encourage emigration to Colombia.

6. A law authorizing the executive either to continue, augment, or decrease the naval and military force.

7. A law granting the exclusive right of navigating the Orinoco with steam vessels,

to Colonel James Hamilton, a native of Scotland.

8. A law granting an exclusive right of fishing for the pearl oysters with machinery, for ten years, to Messrs. Rundell, Bridge, and Rundell, of London.

9. A law empowering the executive to use their discretion in letting the mines, either to natives or foreigners.

The feasts of Boyacá commence on the 8th of August, in commemoration of the famous battle of Boyacá, gained by the Libradór Bolivar over the Spanish army, and in consequence of which he took possession of the capital two days afterwards.

The day's amusement commenced about eleven o'clock, by large parties assembling in the town, and proceeding on foot by the

Calle de San Juan de Dios to the principal alameda, or grand entrance to the city. I joined Séñora Urdineta's party, and on arriving at the spot, found three tents pitched near each other. The first, the Vice-President's; the second, General Urdineta's; the third, belonging to the Artillery Officers. The Vice-President and General were in attendance, and conducted the party, preceded by a band of music, to a clear spot of ground, where all the troops of the capital, both horse and foot, marched past in review, but did not manœuvre. The day was particularly clear and beautiful, adding materially to the interest of the scene, which was excessively striking, from the number of persons (attired in a manner peculiarly attractive to an European eye) moving about in every direction, and appearing by their "*Vivas*" to enter with heart and soul into the feeling of the blessings of liberty, secured to them in great measure by the battle of Boyacá. The troops

having marched past, the Vice-President led the way to a tent pitched on the review ground by the military officers. We there found refreshments of all kinds, and made an excellent luncheon, the Vice-President cautioning us all the time not to eat too much, as we had duty in that way reserved for us both at General Urdineta's tent and his own. After drinking several complimentary toasts to the officers, we went, preceded by the military band, to General Urdineta's tent, where we found an elegant repast laid out, consisting chiefly of poultry, preserves, and sweetmeats. Champagne flew merrily round, and much good humour prevailed. At last the Vice-President said we must go and partake of his fare. We accordingly removed to his tent, where beef and mutton were immediately served up to us in the style in which they are cooked by the Llâneros, natives of the plains of Capac and Apure. At the top of the table, before the Vice-Presi-

dent, was placed a large dish of *Carne con Cuéro*, which is beef with the hide on, the hair being cut off as closely as possible; at the bottom, before General Urdineta, was half a sheep, served up in the same manner; and at each corner of the table stood a soldier, with a tremendous long stake thrust through large ribs of beef.

This method of serving up the top and bottom dishes is remarkably good; the hide, from roasting, contracts a little, so as to serve for a dish for the meat, and prevent the gravy from escaping; you have then only to carve through the meat down to the skin, and cut it in slices, accompanied by the finest and richest gravy imaginable. I most particularly recommend this to the serious consideration of the aldermen of the city of London. The method of cooking the ribs is by no means bad; they are toasted over the fire, and every one cuts off what he

requires; the soldier very politely thrusting the stake across the table with the pending rib, to any one whom he perceives in want of the delicacy under his charge. There are two other dishes peculiar to South America, which I recommend to all epicures, having proved and found them highly palatable. Take a whole sheep or lamb, and having killed the animal, cut the wool off as closely as possible; stuff it with turkeys, fowls, ducks, game, ham, vegetables, &c. then sew the whole up, and bake it in an oven; when served up there are few who do not "*cut and come again.*" The other dish is a pig, dressed in a similar manner, having the hair scalded off.

Notwithstanding we had eaten two luncheons previously, ample justice was done to the Vice-President's feast; patriotic toasts flew round in rapid succession, and were answered by "*Vivas*" from the surrounding

multitude, who conducted themselves in a most orderly manner, never pushing in on the tent, though the whole was open to their view, without guards to prevent their encroachment. In this point of polite good behaviour, I must confess that my own countrymen are decidedly inferior, and lose by the comparison:—John Bull may certainly improve his manners by imitating those of the peasants of South America.

When the ladies rose, a clear space was formed on the green, and dancing commenced, which was kept up until about five in the evening, when the ladies returned home to dress for a ball at the palace, and the populace had several bulls turned out for their amusement. In the evening the town was illuminated.

On the 9th, the popular amusement of tormenting bulls was kept up during the whole

afternoon; masks paraded the streets, dancing and waltzing in every direction; the whole place appeared alive. In the evening there was a public masquerade-ball in the theatre, to which all the world went; the admittance only half a dollar. The pit was cleared of seats, and made a most admirable ball-room. Many of the characters were most excellent, and the women, on the whole, remarkably well dressed. Almost every one took off his mask after the first hour, and all appeared much delighted with the fête. Spanish country-dances and waltzes were the order of the night. The boxes were filled with the elderly part of the company, who there, seated at their ease, amused themselves by observing the motley groups below. During the evening you were expected to visit the boxes, and pay your respects to the old ladies. The entertainment was kept up until a late hour, and went off without the least irregularity of any kind.

Just as the feasts closed, the following intelligence arrived from General Padilla,* the Commander-in-Chief of the naval and military forces employed on the Lake of Maracaybo.

"Republic of Colombia, residence of the Commandant-General of the squadron for operations on the Zulia. On board the brigantine Independiente, at anchor in the port of Altagracia, the 1st of August, 1823, and 13th of the Independence.

"To the Secretary of State of the Marine and War Departments.

"I have the honour and satisfaction of communicating to your Excellency, that on

* This General is about thirty-eight years of age, a native of Rio de la Hacha. He is of mixed colour, of the cast of Indian and African called Zambo. He is General of Brigade, and Commandant-General of Marine, and eminently distinguished himself during the war of emancipation.

the 20th ultimo, I attacked and completely destroyed the enemy's squadron, composed of fifteen large vessels, and seventeen smaller ones.

"In the communication which I made to your Excellency on the 21st of the same month, I sent you a copy of the notification made me by the Spanish chief Laborde, and of the answer I sent him. I am proud of having proved the truth of it; and the copy of the journal of operations which (marked No. 1.) I enclose to your Excellency, will put you in possession of all the occurrences of this memorable campaign, which has covered with glory the arms of the republic, and overwhelmed tyranny with horror and fear.

"In effect, Sir, the difficulty and arduousness of the undertaking, make it the more to be valued.

"Ten of the largest vessels, and twelve smaller ones, opposed to the above-named enemy's force, well manned and armed, was a difference sufficiently notable; but the audacious valour and intrepidity of all the individuals whom I have the honour to command, conquered these difficulties. Their breasts were inflamed on reading to them the proclamation which (marked No. 2.) accompanies this; they broke out into a thousand '*Vivas* for Colombia,' and 'May the tyrants fall!' From this moment I never doubted that the victory would be ours, for every one strove to manifest his desire to fight; and so it was, that the moment we commenced the attack, we almost instantly concluded it, for they were not men, but wild beasts, who threw themselves on the enemy: for which intrepidity I recommend all generally to the consideration of the government, but particularly those mentioned in document No. 3, in order that in

sight of the heroic deeds by which they have distinguished themselves, that recompense may be given to them which is justly due. Eleven vessels and one barge were captured in the action, as your Excellency will observe in the general subjoined statement, marked No. 4; and besides, the brigantine Esperanza was blown up.

Our loss in comparison with that of the enemy has been very small: eight officers, and thirty-six seamen and soldiers killed; fourteen officers, and one hundred and five seamen and soldiers wounded; and one officer injured by contusions, as stated in report No. 5. The enemy have suffered the dreadful loss, in one way or another, of eight hundred men; there remaining in our hands sixty-nine officers, and three hundred and sixty-nine seamen and soldiers, according to report No. 6, which I have placed in the hands of General Maurique, according to list No. 7.

"Amongst the chiefs and officers of the enemy killed are, Captain Condamo, the captain of a line-of-battle ship; Mr. Federico, who was blown up in the brigantine Esperanza, and was ensign of a line-of-battle ship; Don Antonio Pasqual, Don Antonio Lleloyl, and the assistant of the squadron, Pilot Don Manuel Suarez; also, lieutenant of the schooner Esperanza, Mr. Pablot; the officers, Don Antonio Manzarro, Lieutenant-colonel Simon Grahados, Ventura Montesdeca, Captain Crespo, and Captain Montes.

"By the declarations of five individuals that have come from the town since the action, we are informed that Laborde went the same night to the castle; that the captain of the line-of-battle ship, Mr. Lanieson, chief of the smaller squadron of the enemy, arrived, very badly wounded; his second captain was killed, and the greater part of his men killed or wounded; that the launch

Gnaireña arrived with the first and second captains wounded, and the greater part of the men killed or wounded; and that the rest of the squadron had returned to port in like state.

"The day after the combat, I retired with all my prizes, and the squadron under my orders, to this port, in order to repair as quickly as possible the damages sustained, which are considerable. On the 26th ultimo, I intimated to Señor Laborde that he should surrender the insignificant remnant of vessels that he had left, of which No. 8 is a list, and I received from General Morales the answer No. 9, for which reason I wrote to this chief the official letter No 10; and as it happened, General Morales, far from answering my letter, made his second in command, Colonel Don Narciso Lopes, write me, stating as in No. 11; and lastly, I directed to this chief No. 12.

"The enemy's vessels are blockaded in a small spot of the bay or port of Maracaybo, without being able to transport themselves to any other place, because in front of them I have placed a strong division, composed of the brigantine Martes, schooners Independencia, Espadana, Leona, Peacot, and Enprendedora, under the command of the captain of line-of-battle ship, Nicholas Joly; and the first division of the two into which I have distinguished the small vessels, is under the command of Captain Guattino D'Chyti; as for the second, under the command of Lieutenant Francisco Padilla, I have stationed it, as was carried by resolution on the 30th ult., to occupy the river Garabulla.

"We being masters of the Lake, and the communication with the castle cut off by the force which I have stationed in the said Garabulla, the enemy is placed in the greatest state of consternation and wavering.

The pass of Sacuy, and the gate of Guerrero, are open; and the moment the army of the Magdalena arrives. (to forward which object I have written to General Mariano Montilla,) it will be embarked on rafts, and placed in a situation from whence operations may be commenced, and the campaign terminated.

"I likewise send to your Excellency the original plan of the formation of the enemy's lines, some orders, despatches, and various other papers, which have been taken in the captured vessels, — in case they should be interesting to the government.

"I recommend, with my most earnest entreaties, to the executive power the consideration of the unfortunate lot of the mothers, widows, brothers, and orphans of the meritorious officers, seamen, and soldiers, who have so gloriously lost their lives in

this combat for the defence of liberty, and in the former actions, of which I have given account to your Excellency.

God guard your Excellency

GENERAL JOS. PADILLA."

In consequence of this, the public rejoicings were prolonged several days. A large painting, done by order of the government, was placed in one of the principal streets, to represent the naval engagement. Of the style of drawing I cannot speak very highly. The ships were many of them swimming in the air, instead of on the water; and on the shore was represented the general on a horse three times the size of his whole army, viewing the fight, and encouraging the men with the most furious and vehement gestures, whilst horsemen were prancing and dashing about in the most animated style. This daub however answered the desired end of pleasing the people, who flocked in crowds to view it,

and comment on the event it was intended to represent. Shortly after this the news arrived of the capitulation of Maracaybo, and the whole of Morales' army being shipped off for the Havannah, leaving only Puerto Caballo in the hands of the Spaniards, out of all their former extensive possessions in Colombia.

On account of this event, a grand party was given by the Señores Juan Manuel and Manuel Antonio Arrublas, to the court of Bogotá.

A certain select number of the natives, including the Vice-President and ministers, were invited to breakfast at eleven o'clock, that they might amuse themselves, according to the old Spanish custom, by playing at cards until dinner-time. At the hour appointed, the Señores Arrublas were in attendance at the palace of the government,

in order to conduct the Vice-President to their house, according to the established etiquette of the country. Soon after eleven o'clock most of the party had assembled at the house of the Señores Arrublas, which is situated quite in the outskirts of the city, commanding a fine view of the mountains in the rear, and the plain in front. The house has been newly repaired, and with much taste, according to the ideas of the country, but such as might appear gaudy to an European eye. The garden round the *quinta* was more in the French than English style, having straight and formal walks; it was yet quite in its infancy. Having breakfasted, the party immediately commenced card-playing; and at four in the afternoon, when I arrived to the dinner party, I found the Vice-President and chief people still gambling. On the announcement of dinner, at half-past five o'clock, the card parties broke up.

The dinner was laid out in a long, narrow, low room, which would not contain all the guests whom our truly hospitable hosts had invited, amounting to nearly seventy. The junior part of the native society retired to an adjoining room, where, as I believe is often the case at large parties, they fared better than we did at the principal table; at all events, they were very merry and happy, their bursts of laughter on the utterance of any good joke often reaching our ears, and forming a striking contrast with the silent etiquette of the first part of the feast at our table. According to the custom of the country, the person of highest rank takes the head of the table, the foot is occupied by the person next in rank, the third sits on the right-hand of the head of the table, and the giver of the feast on the left; the rest of the guests arrange themselves on either side, taking their seats according to their rank from the head of the table, always,

however; giving precedence to foreigners. The Vice-President accordingly took the head of the table, General Urdineta the foot; the Señor Gual, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the right of the Vice-President, and the elder Arrublas, the left. I found myself next to Doctor Castillo, the Minister of Finance, who is a very agreeable, well-informed man. The custom of placing the chief person at the head of the table is no small tax on him, for he has to help every thing that is placed before him, which a large party renders no sinecure.

The first course consisted of soups, fish, roast and stewed meats, poultry, &c.; likewise numerous made-dishes, interspersed with vegetables, olives, melons, &c.; until not an inch remained to put another dish on; the table actually groaning under the weight of eatables. This is the principal course, and takes up a considerable time.

The soups are removed the moment they are done with, and large made-dishes of meat placed in their room. A bottle of wine, generally *vin de Bourdeaux*, is placed to every person, with a decanter of water, wine-glass, and tumbler; and white wine is distributed here and there about the table; every one drinks when he likes, which I think is much better than our English custom, which may force a man who is eating curry to drink Madeira. After it is seen that every one declines eating more of the course on table, champagne is handed round, and then a general rising takes place; you adjourn to another room, or walk about the garden, until the table is cleared, and the second, or dessert, course is arranged. This move is certainly agreeable at so large a party, and you return with renewed appetite, to attack the second course on its being announced, which generally takes rather more than half an

hour. We found the table elegantly replenished, and ornamented with flowers: it consisted of tarts, puddings, creams, all kinds of preserves, and sweetmeats (in which latter the natives excel); likewise every variety of fruit in the greatest profusion: wines were placed at moderate distances, as before. We all resumed our seats; and after a short pause, during which the company were busily engaged in tasting all the delicacies on table, the Vice-President announced a bumper toast, which was to the "immortal Bolivar,"—and was received with enthusiasm, and *Hip—hip—hip, Huzza!* the Colombians, from their intercourse with Englishmen, having adopted our national mode of expressing approbation on convivial occasions: our friends in the next room re-echoed our plaudits. After the noise had a little subsided, the military band in attendance struck up a national air; after which the croupier, Ge-

neral Urdineta, was called on, who, complimenting the Vice-President in a neat speech, gave his health, amidst much applause—the band again playing a national air. The Vice-President then commenced requesting a toast from each of the company, beginning on his right-hand, and then going to his left, and so on alternately. Amongst those present was Doctor Azuers, a dignitary of the church, much respected, and of considerable influence, who, on being called on for his toast, drank "To the most sacred of all rights, liberty of conscience." Many other priests were at table, by whom, and by the company unanimously, the sentiment was enthusiastically received. At last came my turn, when by that time having become roused by the many speeches made in favour of universal liberty, into a warm feeling of patriotism, I gave "Prosperity to the Merchants and Commerce of Colombia, may

they go hand in hand with the Merchants and Commerce of Great Britain; and may both powers ride triumphant over all the machinations of the Holy Alliance, against the cause of Liberty and Independence." Huzza! huzza! resounded from all sides, "Down with the Holy Alliance, &c." I never met men, as a body, who are more suited for keeping up the spirit of a public entertainment than the Colombians; they have a natural ready wit, and talent; are seldom bashful, or caught off their guard; on the contrary, they have generally some sally of sportive humour, and deliver their sentiments in an easy, pleasing manner, in which they have a decided superiority over the generality of my countrymen.

Every one then gave his toast, and every possible ideal connected with universal liberty was expatiated on most fully, even pulled in forcibly, in so many unexpected,

unconnected shapes, as to remind me of a lottery-puff, or the headings to the Macassar oil, which are on matters as totally different from the subject they afterwards introduce as it is possible to imagine, and which yet amuse from their ingenuity.

The arrival of the ladies was then announced, and the ball waited for us. We immediately rose, and adjourned to the *sálla*, or ball-room, which we found commodious, well arranged, and well lighted; one extremity opening into a bed-room, according to the old Spanish custom, in which is placed the state-bed, gaily adorned, the pillows frequently trimmed with the finest lace: here the female servants of the ladies were assembled to receive their shawls, &c. At the other extremity, a door opened into a refreshment-room, which was kept constantly well supplied. The diversions of the evening commenced by the only pro-

fessional performer of the place (who has charge of instructing the military band) singing several national airs, accompanying his voice with the piano-forte: he sang and played well, and was much applauded. The piano-forte was one of Broadwood's, and an excellent instrument. As soon as the natives become a little richer, there will be a great demand on England for piano-fortes and harps, for all classes are very fond of music, and the women naturally of a gay disposition.

The professional performance over, Spanish country-dances and waltzes were kept up with great spirit until one o'clock, when supper was announced. It was served up in elegant style in the room where we had dined. The ladies sat down first, and the gentlemen stood behind their chairs to assist them. Here I must observe, that there is a striking difference between them

and our fair countrywomen, who eat but very sparingly; for, on the contrary, the Colombian lady makes a hearty meal, tasting of most dishes near her, and not forgetting a proportional quantity of fluid to aid her digestion.

They generally, on quitting the table, take with them a basket of *bon-bons* "for the young people at home," as was formerly the custom in England, but has of late years been discontinued, except at some of our civic feasts, where I believe the remaining sweetmeats are conveyed home to the young folk, in the pockets of their papas. After the ladies had retired, the gentlemen sat down, and were not long in despatching the remnants of the feast. Before the ladies rose, the men filled bumpers, and drank their health, with three times three. We likewise called on some of the ladies for toasts, in giving which they acquitted them-

selves remarkably well. Dancing was resumed about two, and kept up for an hour, when the party broke up; and we walked to our respective homes, singing national songs, and highly pleased with the day's amusement, and kind attentions and civilities of our worthy hosts.

CHAPTER XIII.

BREAKFAST PARTY — FALL OF TEQUENDAMA — BRIDGE OF PANDI — CELEBRATED LAKE OF GUATAVITA — SALT MINES — LIVA — MUNIQUERA — CHIQUINQUERA — ANECDOTES OF THE VIRGIN — CLERICAL MODE OF RAISING MONEY — RETURN TO BOGOTA.

THE attentions I had received from many individuals, both in the government and unconnected with it, determined me to give a party to the heads of the republic, and the chief people, and foreigners in the place. As of late large public dinners had been given, I considered a breakfast might be an agreeable change; I therefore waited on the

Vice-President, and requested him to name a day when he would honour me with his company; which being fixed, I invited a party of about seventy to meet him; and as the draining of the far-famed Lagoon of Guatavita at this time much engrossed public attention, I fitted up a large syphon, which was to discharge the water from a vessel, intended to represent the Lagoon of Guatavita, into another vessel, placed below the level of the former, and at a tolerable distance: I had it fitted in the court-yard, in order to amuse the company previously to breakfast, and to shew them that if the present means for draining the Lagoon should fail, yet that a syphon would effect it. This instrument, though so well known in Europe, has not yet reached the interior of Colombia, and its properties were consequently known but to few. On the day appointed I proceeded to the palace, and conducted the Vice-President to the house of

my friend, Señor Rovera, which he had kindly lent me for the occasion. All the company being assembled, I distributed plans of the Lagoon, and calculations of the expense of clearing it by a syphon, and the time necessary for doing it. A boy, whom I had previously instructed, was then ordered to draw out the air from the syphon; which, however, he failed to effect; when many called out, "I told you it could not be done; how is it possible that a crooked tube can convey water from one vessel to another?" I now found them so inclined to raise a laugh at my expense, that I went down into the court-yard, and succeeded in extracting the air, on which the water flowed briskly from one vessel to the other. Many would hardly believe it, and made me repeat the experiment more than once, and were scarcely satisfied with the explanation I gave them, of the natural cause of the action of the syphon. Guata-

vita shares consequently greatly increased in value, and we had much good humour and laughing on the subject. A little after two we sat down to breakfast, every thing being cold, except the soups. The wine flew round merrily; every one gave his toast; there were many excellent speeches made, and some good singing. The Vice-President expressed himself much pleased at being surrounded by so many foreigners; and hoped that Colombia would always continue united to England in the strictest bonds of friendship. About seven in the evening the Vice-President retired, but the hilarity of the party was kept up until a late hour.

Among the various wonders of nature with which this country abounds, there is not one of more attraction or more admired than the celebrated Fall of Tequendama, which unites the river Bogotá with that of the

Magdalena. The traveller should proceed in a south-westerly direction across the plain of Bogotá, about three leagues and a half, until he reaches the village of Soacha, which is about half a league from the river Bogotá, where horses may be procured to proceed on the journey. From the river to the fall is nearly a league, and the road is over a ridge of mountains which bound the plain to the south-west. The view from hence is excessively commanding and picturesque, and the horizon terminates in a chain of variously shaped eminences of different heights. The river Bogotá, receiving the waters of numerous tributary streams, increases in breadth and depth as it approaches the cleft through which it dashes. A short distance above the fall, its breadth is one hundred and forty feet, but contracts at the crevice into a narrow, deep bed, of only forty feet, flowing rapidly through its confined course with augmented violence.

The banks on each side are covered with trees. On a level with the bed of the river, and only at fifty yards distance from it, the spectator gazes with surprise and admiration on the vast and accumulating body of water, which is precipitated with violence down a perpendicular rock, at two bounds, to the immense depth of six hundred and fifty feet, into a dark unfathomable abyss; whence it issues impetuously over a stony bed, amidst the windings of the rock, and pursues its track by a precipitate descent until it is lost in the waters of the great river Magdalena, with whose stream it mingles. When this prodigious body of water issues from the chasm, it forms an arch, broad and brilliant in appearance; a little farther down it resembles a white fleece, and as it descends still lower, it darts forth myriads of fanciful shapes, more like fireworks than any thing else to which I can compare them. The evaporation is excessively great and

rapid, and the changes beautiful and various, as this vast body of water sends up its dense vapours, which, ascending and mingling with the atmosphere, form beautiful rainbows. The comparatively trifling stream which issues from the bottom of the fall, affords convincing evidence of the excessive evaporation which takes place. A remarkable variety of climate is observable here. The plain is covered with grain and the trees of the Temperate Zone. At the foot of the fall are the palms of the equinoctial valleys. The face of the rock, which terminates the plain of Bogotá, is very abrupt and perpendicular; and the descent to the Rio Meta (the name which the river assumes from the termination of the fall to the rival Magdalena) from the river Bogotá employs three hours. From the spot where the traveller pauses to observe this wonder of nature, the mountains rise in lofty majesty, covered with wood,—and birds of bril-

liant plumage, peculiar to the place, hover around, and add to the enchantment of the scene. The loneliness of situation, the deafening roar of the waters, the luxuriance of the vegetation, the extent and magnificence of the scenery around, combine to render this one of the most picturesque and wildly romantic spots amid the whole range of the Cordilleras.

It may not be out of place here to narrate the tradition belonging to this mighty fall.

"In ancient days, when the sun alone supplied light to the earth, and the people of Bogotá were barbarians, an old man suddenly appeared amongst them from the East, with long garments and a white flowing beard. This was Bochica. He instructed them in agriculture, &c.; and with him came a woman, who, as well as himself, had three names, one of which was Chia;

she was very beautiful, very malevolent, and overturned every thing Bochica attempted by her magic she swelled the rivers and overflowed the plain, so that the people, with the exception of a few who escaped to the mountains, perished in the waters. Bochica, exasperated at her conduct, drove Chia from the earth, and she became the moon. He then, by the mighty force of his arm, broke a passage through the encircling Cordilleras, and constituted the Fall of Tequendama, by which means the lake formed by Chia was drained, and the plain of Bogotá rendered more fertile and beautiful than it had been before."

The appearance of the plain of Bogotá at this moment justifies the tradition of its having been formerly a lake: low summits appear here and there like islets; and the whole extent is rendered marshy by the numerous streams which cross it in every direction.

In this country, replete with interest to every enquiring mind, and abounding in all that can delight and gratify the venturous and curious traveller, the natural bridges of Icononzo, near the small village of Pandi, west of the Summa Paz, rank pre-eminently in wonder, and lay claim to general attention. They are however not much frequented, but by the wandering Indian, or some traveller, whom a desire to view the marvels of nature tempts to this desolate region. Over a small river are thrown these wonderful arches, formed by Nature in one of her fantastic moods, as though scorning to be outdone by art; and but for which, the torrent which rolls through the deep and narrow valley, would have been impassable. The road hither from the capital is replete with difficulty and danger. This chasm of Icononzo is in the centre of the valley of Pandi, and seems as if formed by some great shock of nature which rent the mountain

asunder. At the height of nearly three hundred feet above the torrent, are these wonderful bridges, one above the other; the higher of the two about forty feet broad, and fifty feet long, formed of solid rock, seven feet thick in the centre of the arch. Beneath this, and as it were at the side, at the depth of nearly sixty feet, appears another bridge, still more extraordinary, for it seems torn from the mountain which forms the upper; the lower has the semblance of having fallen from the mass of rock, three immense pieces having descended from the other side of the cleft—the upper mass forming the key-stone of the other two. It is excessively dangerous to venture on this, as it is only accessible by a narrow path on the brink of an abyss. There is a cleft through which the precipice can be seen; and great quantities of birds of night are observed skimming about, and hovering over the water which flows at the bottom of a cavern, so dark and

gloomy, that its sides are not distinguishable in the dense and dismal spot.

October 1st, 1823. On account of the vast quantity of business the executive had to get through, and the great deficiency in the number of clerks requisite for forwarding it, I was detained until this time in Bogotá, in order to procure all the documents necessary to be forwarded to England, regarding the Pearl Fishery; and as the season for the fishery does not commence on the Atlantic side of Colombia before April, I considered I should have some spare time, which I might employ in visiting many parts of the interior, previously to my going to Maracaybo, to direct the first essay in the revival of this once most lucrative branch of commerce.

Being very intimate with Señor Pépe Paris, the director of the draining of the

Lagoon of Guatavita, I had often promised to spend some time with him there, in giving every assistance to his undertaking; finding myself now at leisure, I communicated to my friend my readiness to accompany him. He named the following day; in consequence of which we each prepared a baggage-mule, and sent them off early on the morning of the second. At nine o'clock we ourselves went to breakfast, and take leave of our friends, Colonel Johnston, and Mr. Thompson, who were this morning to depart on their way back to old England. What pleasure the idea of once more reaching home spread over their countenances! The worthy Colonel had much distinguished himself as an officer of the Albions, under the immediate command of Colonel Mackintosh, an Englishman, who mainly contributed to the gaining of the celebrated battles of Carabobo and Boyacá; both Colonels were intimate friends

of Bolivar, by whom they were sincerely respected. Both have been severely wounded in defending the cause of independence. Mr. Thompson, though debarred the bright field of military honours, had no less assisted the republic by having furnished it, when most in need, at his own risk, with many kinds of most necessary supplies,—and after an absence from Europe of five years was now returning to the bosom of his family, justly happy in the hope of a bright future, to repay the years of toil and trouble he had experienced.

Colonel Johnston, and Mr. Thompson, have jointly obtained a grant of the most famous salt mines of the country, which they intend working on the most improved European method. This will add considerably to the revenues of the state, and yield them, I trust, a handsome reward for their exertions.

About two we parted, after many a kind farewell, hoping that our next meeting might be in England, there to talk over all our adventures.

At firsf, my friend and myself went very silently cantering along the road, but at last his lively disposition broke the spell, and we got into an interesting conversation on the future prospects of Colombia. Wrapt in these pleasing dreams, (for I almost felt myself a Colombian son of freedom,) the shades of evening overtook us, as we arrived at a small farm-house, with the mistress of which my companion was acquainted; here we found our baggage, and determined on remaining for the night. We accordingly turned our horses loose, to roll in the yard, of which all the animals of this country are particularly fond. We then procured them some Indian corn and bran; after which we sat down to

a substantial repast, which the good woman of the house had quickly prepared for us. We retired early to rest, being determined to rise before daylight, so as to visit the Lagoon about mid-day.

October 3d. Were up, and had breakfasted before the day dawned; but to our great disappointment, the riding horses had got out of the yard, and were nowhere to be found. We, however, despatched our baggage, and waited until we could procure two mounted *peons* to send after them. In the mean time we walked about the farm, which appeared to be much in a state of nature, — industry having done but very little. The corn-land had only had the surface turned up with a hoe, but nevertheless produced abundantly. What advantage a scientific agricultural capitalist would have over these poor farmers! An amazing saving would be made by sending out ploughs,

harrows, winnowing, threshing, and seed-sowing machines, as the chief cost is the labour; indeed, if you should grow for exportation, it would not be possible to procure sufficient hands. Notwithstanding the richness of the mines, I consider agriculture as a still more lucrative speculation for a large capitalist to embark in; and the attention of some enterprising character should be turned towards it. For ready money, land may be purchased at a very low rate, in any situation required; and the numerous rivers of the interior will facilitate the communication with the coast.

About eight o'clock our horses were driven into the yard, having been straying some miles in the plain. We immediately mounted, and pushed rapidly on for the village of Guatavita, where we arrived at noon, just in time to sit down to dinner with the curate Dr. Antonio Bargas, a good-humour-

ed, eccentric, bigotted priest. Being an old acquaintance of my friend Pépe, he gave us both a cordial embrace, after the mode of the country; he then looked at me, and in a good-humoured manner said, "Well, you can't be a Protestant, you must be a Roman Catholic." I told him I was a Protestant; but most tolerant to all other religions, especially his, which was so nearly allied to my own. "What a pity is it," "he replied, that such a soul should be lost,—but no, I will convert you;" and to it in reality he set, as soon as we had finished our meal. After expending all his stock of learning and rhetoric, he found I puzzled him by some of my answers; when Pépe coming up, said, "Take care, Doctor, you will be turning Protestant, and lose your living, for I will inform against you." The Doctor told him he believed *him* to be an incorrigible heretic, and deserving of excommunication. This gave rise to a regular theological warfare,

my friend Pépe being very liberal in his religious ideas: I took the opportunity to escape, and order the horses to be saddled. On my return, the Doctor said, "I believe you English are better *medicos* than Christians,—therefore, although you will shut your eyes to the truth, and not be converted, yet I will allow you to be a clever man, if you will cure me of the rheumatism in my knee." I accordingly turned doctor, put on a long face, examined his knee, and found it to be gout, a disease scarcely known in the country. I immediately prescribed for him warm flannels dipped in spirits, until he could procure some fine oil-cloth, such as bathing-dresses are made of, with which to cover the limb, to create perspiration, and accelerate circulation. He promised to follow my prescription; but appeared much more pleased and delighted with a bottle of fine old Cogniac, which I presented to him. In spite of the gout he took a glass, and said he

considered it as a great treasure. About two P. M. we mounted our horses; and after two hours' ride, chiefly through corn and pasture lands, having a gentle ascent, we arrived at the Hacienda of Echárleche, situated at the foot of the mountain, on the summit of which is the famous Lagoon. We were kindly received by the overseer of the estate, and his wife,—the former a fine-looking, powerful, athletic man, dressed in the costume of the country; having loose trowsers on, with strong leather leggings strapped round his legs, and *alpergates* with tremendous spurs, instead of shoes; no stockings; a jacket and waistcoat, with a handsome *roana* thrown over all; no neckcloth; his shirt-collar open, and turned back, and a large white beaver-hat; also a *lasso** in his hand.

* Lazo, a Spanish word, means a slip-knot, or noose; from whence in English we call it Lasso; and the act of encircling the object wished to be taken, Lassoing.

His wife, a thrifty-looking, active woman, reminded me of a careful farmer's wife in England, with her bunch of keys at her

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The *lasso* is made from long strips of untanned hide; it is used of different lengths, from ten to twenty yards, and of various degrees of strength, from a quarter of an inch to an inch in circumference; it has an eye, or loop, at one end, through which the other is passed, so as to form a bight, or noose. This end is then either secured to a ring fixed to the girth of the saddle, or to the large pommel in front; and sometimes carried loose in the hand, according to the object the individual has in view. The whole *lasso* is made up in a neat coil. This the horseman takes in his left, or bridle-hand; and on coming within thirty or forty yards of the object he wishes to take, allows the noose to slip down, with an opening of about three feet. He then draws about eight or ten feet of the *lasso* through the eye of the noose, and coils it up in small circles alongside of the three-feet noose, to the bottom of which the eye is allowed to slip. This is the most approved method, but some let out the whole length of noose at once, and swing the entire extent round their head; which is very inconvenient, and cannot be done when amongst trees. To throw it, the arm and wrist require to be turned much in the same manner as a seaman does to heave the lead, only that the arm moves horizontally, instead of perpendicularly; and according to the distance you wish to throw it, you increase the velocity. By giv-

side; though I cannot say she equalled our good countrywomen in cleanliness. The salutations over, we begged immediately for

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ing the *lasso* the proper swing, the noose opens the moment it is discharged from the hand, and covers a very large space, so that, with practice, there is little chance of an animal escaping. In general the natives of the whole of South America carry this instrument, the use of which they are taught from their infancy, and it serves for many other purposes besides. But those who use it most expertly are decidedly the natives of Buenos-Ayres and Chili, especially the former; for they have by far the most practice, from the quantity of cattle that abounds in these plains.

Captain Basil Hall, in his South American Journal, so well described the manner of lassoing wild animals, that it is impossible for me to improve on it; I therefore take the liberty of inserting his own words, and, as I have often seen what he describes, bear witness to the accuracy of the statement:—

"Let us suppose that a wild bull is to be caught, and that two mounted horsemen (*guassos*, as they are called in Chili, or *guachos*, in Buenos-Ayres) undertake to kill him. As soon as they discover their prey, they remove the coil of the *lasso* from behind them; and grasping it in the left-hand, prepare the noose in the right, and dash off at full gallop, each swinging his *lasso* round his head. The first who comes within reach aims at the bull's horns, and when he

fresh horses, which were instantly procured, by lassoing out of a large troop driven for that purpose into a *corrál*.

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sees (which he does in an instant) that the *lasso* which he has thrown will take effect, he stops his horse, and turns him half round, — the bull continuing his course, till the whole cord has run out. The horse meanwhile, knowing by experience what is going to happen, leans over as much as he can in the opposite direction from the bull, and stands trembling in expectation of the violent tug which is to be given to him by the bull when brought up by the *lasso*. So great indeed is the jerk which takes place at this moment, that were the horse not to lean over in the manner described, he would be certainly overturned; but standing as he does across the road, with his feet planted firmly in the ground, he offers sufficient resistance to stop the bull as instantaneously as if he had been shot, though the instant before he was running at full speed. In some cases, this check is so abrupt and violent, that the animal is not only dashed to the ground, but rolls along at full stretch of the *lasso*, while the horse is drawn sideways and ploughs up the earth with his feet for several yards. This, which takes so long to describe, is the work of a few seconds; during which, the other horseman gallops past, and before the bull has time to recover from the shock, places the noose over his horns, and continues advancing till this *lasso* is at full stretch. The bull, stupefied by the fall, sometimes lies motionless on the ground, but the men soon rouse him up by tugging him to and fro. When on

From the Hacienda of Echárléche to the Lagoon is one league. As soon as mounted, we ascended a particularly steep hill, from

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his legs, with a horseman on each side, he is like a ship moored with two cables; and however unwilling he may be to accompany the *guassos*, or however great his struggles, he is irresistibly dragged along by them in whatever direction they please.

"If the intention be to kill the animal for the sake of his hide and tallow alone, as is often the case, one of the *guassos* dismounts, and running on, cuts the bull's hamstrings with a long knife, which he always wears in his girdle; and instantly afterwards despatches him by a dexterous cut across the back of the neck. The most surprising thing is, the manner in which the horse, after being left by his rider, manages to preserve the *lasso* always tight: this would be less difficult if the bull were to remain steady; but it sometimes happens that he makes violent struggles to disentangle himself from the *lassos*, rushing backwards and forwards in a furious manner. The horse, however, with wonderful sagacity, alters his place, and prances about as if conscious of what he is doing, so as to resist every movement of the bull, and never to allow the *lasso* to be relaxed for a moment.

"When a wild horse is to be taken, the *lasso* is always placed round the two hind-legs, and, as the *guasso* rides

the rise of which, as we stopped to rest our horses, we had a fine view of the plain below, and numerous ridges of the Andes bordering the whole scene. As we wound up the mountain, occasionally following a gently rising road on the brow, at other times clambering up its steep ascent, rendered difficult by the wet state of the road, we constantly changed our view, and the eye was pleased by the richness of the verdure, the brilliance and luxuriance of

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a little on one side, the jerk pulls the entangled feet laterally, so as to throw him on his side without endangering his knees or his face. Before the horse can recover the shock, the rider dismounts, and snatching his *poncho*, or cloak, from his shoulders, wraps it round the prostrate animal's head; he then forces into his mouth one of the powerful bits of the country, straps a saddle on his back, and bestriding him, removes the *poncho;* upon which the astonished horse springs on his legs, and endeavours by a thousand vain efforts to disencumber himself of his new master, who sits quite composedly on his back; and by a discipline which never fails, reduces the horse to such complete obedience, that he is soon trained to lend his speed and strength in the capture of his wild companions."

the variegated brushwood, forming a striking contrast with the bold shapes of the distant mountains, and the nearer rocky promontories that at each moment rose on our view. After a scrambling ride of three quarters of an hour, we arrived at some *ranchas,* (small cottages,) where the Indians, employed on the Lagoon, live. Here we dismounted, and giving our horses in charge to an attendant, first visited a large *rancha,* building for my friend Pépe and myself to live in. It was on an oblong piece of ground, purposely raised a little above the surrounding soil, in order to keep it dry—the *rancha* itself, formed of rough poles driven deep into the ground, with strong beams across, and a sloping roof, the whole well thatched with a kind of long grass, obtained from a neighbouring swamp. The inside was divided into two bed-rooms, a sitting room, and a servant's room. From thence we set off for the Lagoon, accompanied by the

overseer, Señor Ramirez, a native of the country; and after a five minutes' walk through some close brushwood, came to the canal by which the water is carried off. We found but little flowing. We now commenced walking one by one over a long causeway, or kind of bridge, formed over the canal below, which gradually rose as we approached the Lagoon, until we ascended half the mountain; we then came in sight of the sacred water, calmly presenting its still surface through the chasm that connects it with the canal. I descended to the level of the lake, and was preparing to enter a canoe, when our mutual friend Señor Mariano de Rivero joined us, much to our satisfaction. We all embarked together, and my friend Pépe steered us, as we paddled through the entrance of the narrow canal into this extraordinary Lagoon. Having arrived at the centre, we lay resting on our paddles to admire this

magnificent and extraordinary view. Picture to yourself a lovely autumnal day on the lakes of Westmoreland,—such had we; not a breath of wind disturbed the glassy surface of the lake, which reflected back the thick woods that studded its shores, rising in tiers on tiers to the height of one hundred and seventy feet; and above all was seen a calm reflected sky; nought living moved, save a few water-fowl, that gently glided away from us, as wondering what creatures dared molest their "*solitary reign.*" It really appeared an enchanted spot. Our friend Pépe, who had often ruminated here, broke in on our silent reflections, giving us the history of the Lagoon as follows:

"Previously to the conquest of the country by the Spaniards, a large district, containing about a million of inhabitants, was subject to the *Cacique* of Guatavita; who there had a

considerable capital, and kept up an army of thirty thousand warriors, which caused him to be much respected by the neighbouring tribes, who brought him and his people gold dust in exchange for the produce of their fields, they generally being cultivators of the soil. This Lagoon, situated between nine and ten thousand feet above the level of the sea, and formed on the summit of a conical mountain, they considered as the residence of their protecting deity, to whom, from a religious motive, they thought it necessary to make offerings twice a year. In consequence of this, all the Cacique's subjects assembled at stated times, with their gold offerings; and, forming in grand procession, advanced with music to the Lagoon, winding up the mountain by a well-designed broad road, conducting to the summit, a few feet below which were then washed by the water of the lake. Arrived there, the Cacique and the principal chiefs

embarked in large canoes, by steps formed in that break; (pointing to a rent in the top of the mountain which the eye could just make out). The people at the same time distributed themselves all around the Lagoon. On arriving at the centre, the chiefs anointed the Cacique, and powdered him over with a profusion of gold-dust; from which practice, in various parts of South America, has arisen the name of El Dorado.

"On a signal given, the multitude turned their backs on the Lagoon; and at the moment when the Cacique plunged into its bosom, they shouted, and threw in over their shoulders, as far as they could, their offerings.' This done, the Cacique landed, and returned to his capital, in the same manner as he came, considering that the sins of himself and people, committed during the last six months, were expiated. According

to a calculation, made from a basis laid down by Monsieur de la Kier, of the Royal Institute of Paris, who particularly examined every document relating to the Lagoon, there ought to be gold and precious stones yet buried in it to the amount of one billion one hundred and twenty millions sterling. On the Spaniards conquering the country, they so cruelly persecuted the natives to obtain gold, that most of them threw what they had left into the Lagoon. The Cacique himself caused to be cast into the centre of it the burdens of fifty men, laden with gold dust.

"Some of the chiefs, when afterwards taken prisoners, and ill used by the Spaniards, revenged themselves by saying, 'If it is gold you want, go and search at the bottom of the Lagoon, and you will find sufficient there;' supposing the undertaking to be impossible. The Spaniards, how-

ever attempted it; and had got within fourteen feet of the bottom, when the sides fell in with a tremendous crash; and the Lagoon having springs in it, the waters began to rise. The Spaniards however had time, by examining the banks, and washing the mud and soil, to procure a sufficient sum to pay the government a quinta of one hundred and seventy thousand dollars (a quinta is three per cent.); and one emerald procured, and sent to Madrid, was alone valued at seventy thousand dollars. Several other attempts were made previously to the breaking out of the revolution; but none succeeded. At last, having a speculating turn," continued my friend Pépe, "I determined to undertake it. Getting a grant from the executive government, I formed a company with sixteen shares, each person giving me five hundred dollars, in all eight thousand, which I thought would be sufficient; but unfortunately it has now cost me

twenty thousand dollars, and there are still thirty-three feet of water left."

An old Spaniard, sounding in the centre, drew up with the lead a small branch of a tree, in the mud surrounding which was found a golden image, worth about one hundred dollars: so there is every reason for hope.

Having paddled round the shores of the Lagoon, we landed, and commenced examining the works which were now going on, as a kind of tunnel. We found the strata to be chiefly slate and grey sandstone; but saw no volcanic appearances. I at once perceived why the sides had fallen in. The slate strata lay in flakes, at about twenty degrees from the perpendicular, against the edges of which the water struck, and gradually carrying away piece by piece, undermined the sides, which consequently

fell in. I pointed it out, and proposed planking the sides, in which Señor Rivero concurred; but we could not persuade our friend Pépe that this was requisite. The distance required to be cut, I found to be about forty yards; which might easily be done with proper care, and an expense of perhaps two thousand dollars.

Having well examined every thing, we returned, by a little after sunset, to Echárléche, where we enjoyed an excellent supper, and a good night's repose.

Oct. 4th. We made an excursion to the summit of the cone which forms the Lagoon, following the ancient Indian road, now quite neglected, and overgrown in many parts with brushwood and trees. On the edge of the cone, we saw two of the sepulchres of the Caciques, hewn in the sandstone rock. And here is said to be a cave,

connected with the worship of the Lagoon; at the entrance of which formerly stood two golden figures, as large as life. A Spanish soldier who first wandered to the place, cut off one of the fingers, when he was attacked by the natives, wounded, and with difficulty made his escape. Having related what he had seen, a strong party of the Spaniards proceeded, well armed, to the spot; but no figures were to be found, nor could they discover the entrance of the cave. The Indians, hearing that a strong force would come to revenge their wounded companion, are supposed to have carefully stopped up the cave, and thrown the golden figures into the lake.

From this spot the view is very remarkable—verdant plains stretching beneath your feet; various collateral ridges of the Andes, in straight lines, appearing to the westward; and the rear closed by the Andes them-

selves, their summits lost in the clouds. On our return to Echárléche in the evening, we determined on making an excursion into the interior, as far as the city of Liva, and to visit all the mines worth seeing in the neighbourhood.

At eight in the morning of the fifth we started, and at noon, after winding through several valleys, rather void of interest, we arrived at the village of Sescala, and stopped at the curate's house, a Doctor Rocas, a rather eccentric character, possessed of a great deal of natural ability; he appeared to have a tolerable idea of mechanics, and expressed a great desire to visit England, in order to perfect himself in that science.

At sunset we arrived at the village of Yousa, having crossed a very barren country, chiefly grazing-land; but from the want

of trees the whole district appeared very naked.

In Yousa there are salt springs. We stopped at the house of the director, or person in charge of them, but did not find him at home. We were, however, most hospitably received by his wife and daughter, who provided every thing requisite for our comfort.

On the 7th, at daylight, we arose, with the thermometer at 49°, which to us appeared tolerably cold; the water was most refreshing. As soon as we had taken some chocolate, we sent for the comptroller of the mines, and accompanied him to visit them.

We found that the two springs, from the evaporation of whose waters the salt is obtained, came from the direction of the famous rock-salt mines of Zipaquira; and there

is little doubt, but that if the proprietor had taken some trouble, and dug down a few yards, he would have met with the rock-salt itself. In widening the well a short time back, several emeralds were found in the strata, which are composed of slate and grey sandstone,—being the same as the strata of the Cordillera of Muso, where the finest emeralds in the world have been obtained; indeed this spot almost appears to be a continuation of that Cordillera.

The salt springs are situated about fifty feet below where the boiling-houses have been built; and so little idea have they of the least mechanism, in order to save the expense of manual labour, that they fill large jars at the wells, and bring the water up on the heads of men and women, employed for that purpose. Two common pumps, placed one over the other, with a small reservoir, would send whatever quan-

tity they wanted direct into the boiling-house, by the labour of only one or two men; whereas at least fifty are now employed.

The system at present pursued is attended with great expense, and loss of salt. To make five hundred *árrobas*, or twelve thousand five hundred pounds of salt, they use one hundred and fifty earthen pots; which are filled with the water of the springs, and then placed in contiguous rows, in beds built on arches on purpose to receive them; the fire is lighted underneath. The value of each pot is about nine-pence, which has to be destroyed to get the salt out. One thousand cargoes of wood, worth one hundred and forty dollars, are required for the fire; and at the close of the operation, they have to destroy the beds, which are built to contain the pots: each operation of evaporation takes five days and nights.

Thirteen thousand six hundred and seventy *arrobas* are obtained in six months, on which the clear profit is only about five thousand dollars; whereas, by proper means, the springs might yield a profit of four times that sum. The direction of the ravine, where these springs rise, is about North and South. These springs, together with the magnificent rock-salt mines of Zipaquira, are shortly to be worked in a superior style by Colonel Johnston and Mr. Thompson.

On returning to the director's house, we were regaled with an excellent breakfast, and peculiarly fine coffee; we found it was procured from a place called Piamy, near to the village of Patcho, where it costs only three-pence a pound, whereas at Bogotá, for much inferior coffee, the common price is a shilling.

At ten o'clock, we took leave of our kind hostess and daughter. As we entered the small village of Suta, Señor Paris pointed out to me a large rock, round the base of which the road turned. He said the peasantry believed that the devil had brought it there one night, in order to prevent their proceeding to worship the Virgin of Chiquinquera; but that angels pursuing him, he was obliged to let go his hold, before he got into a gap in the mountain a little distance further on; which pass the stone most certainly would have filled up. This is recorded as one of the miracles done by the power of the Virgin, and her votaries still continue flocking to her shrine. At one we stopped at the Hacienda of Toursaleta, belonging to Señor Pepe Flores, who received us most kindly, and begged us to remain for the night; instead of which we prevailed on him to promise to accompany us to the village of Wat-

cheta. Whilst dinner was preparing, we visited some small works he had made for extracting nitre. The earth from which he obtained the nitre, was brought from an Indian cave; when first discovered it yielded a great quantity, on account of the interior having been so long exposed to the action of the atmosphere; but as the work has advanced, the quantity of nitre extracted has become less. My scientific companion, Señor Rivero, recommended to him that he should expose the earth, from the interior of the cave, to the action of the air for one year; mixing with it earth taken from the walls still standing of an ancient Indian village, by which means the compost would become much more impregnated with nitrous particles. The nitre that had been made appeared to be very fine and white. Señor Flores had sold a considerable quantity to the government for their powder-mills, at a dollar a pound.

About three o'clock we set off for Watcheta, and scampered over an agreeable plain; which, if art lent a hand to finish what nature has commenced, might be made most beautiful. We passed the small village of Ubaté, chiefly inhabited by husbandmen of the plain; and during the ride, our friend informed us that there was a large sepulchral cave in this plain, near the Parrochia de la Mesa, where formerly Indians had been buried, and some pieces of gold had been found. No one has, however, yet attempted to wash the whole of the earth contained in the cave, so as to obtain all the gold and emeralds which the Indians generally interred with their dead. Señor Flores likewise informed us, that during the heavy rains, a stream of water that passes through Suta yields particularly fine emeralds, some larger than a pigeon's egg, brought down from the interior by the mountain-torrent.

At eight o'clock we arrived at Watcheta, and were very kindly received by the worthy curate, who supplied us with some very tolerable Islanian wine, which had been presented to him on account of a celebration of marriage; and as we partook very freely of it, forgetting that the demijohn before us might be the whole of the stock of the good padre's cellar, our humorous friend Pépe Paris, as each time we filled our glasses, called out, "Very well, father, here goes another Misa;" meaning the value paid by the religious for the saying of an extra mass. The padre bore our carousing and our jokes with great good humour, notwithstanding he observed the demijohn to be manifestly fast decreasing.

We all slept on sofas in the same room; and it was long before I could get to sleep, from the constant roar of laughter which our merry friend Paris kept us in, by tell-

ing most ridiculous stories, chiefly at the expense of the holy padres, in which our host most good naturedly joined.

Oct. 8th. At nine we left Watchéta, Señor Paris having previously bartered a double-barrelled pistol, with a broken pan, for one of the curate's mules. No sooner were we out of hearing, than he began to boast of having jockeyed the parson; but we had not proceeded far when the holy father's mule was done up, and could not keep up with the other baggage-mules. We formed a council to determine his worth, which we unanimously voted not to exceed twelve dollars; so that Rivero and myself had a famous laugh at the expense of poor Pépe, whose pistol had cost him forty dollars.

The road towards Liva, to which town we were directing our steps, lies through

a very romantic country, tolerably well wooded, — a rather unusual sight to us of late. The atmosphere very agreeable— thermometer 52°, and road tolerably good; the general strata, slate and poor limestone, with some indications of coal. About one, after descending a mountain, from the top of which we had a very extensive view, and from whence, on the bare brow of a steep to the left of us, we could perceive evident veins of coal, we arrived at the village of Roqera. Here we visited a manufactory of earthenware, from whence Bogotá is chiefly supplied. The whole establishment miserable in the extreme; indeed, unless pointed out to me to be a manufactory, I should never have found it out. The clay is particularly good; and a pure white description can be obtained in the neighbourhood, fit for making porcelain. At three we continued our journey, and in the way met with General Nariño, who was on a visit to this

part, to endeavour to re-establish his health; this district being considered particularly salubrious. We stopped and entered into conversation with him, particularly on the various kinds of mines discovered in the neighbourhood; he gave us a good deal of information, and appeared to have a most speculative turn. I was particularly pleased with his manner, which was easy, and even courteous. He was dressed like ourselves, with long military boots, a *roana*, and broad-brimmed straw-hat, with a white handkerchief tied round the head, the ends hanging down behind. We now waded through a shallow river, and passed the village of Tinhagua, where a great quantity of the Coquita shrub is grown, from which is made the rope generally used in the country. It is very white, and serviceable, and sold at the moderate price of three halfpence for two fathoms of a half-inch rope.

At seven in the evening we arrived at Suta, a considerable village. We alighted at the house of the Juez Politico, or chief magistrate of the place, a friend of Pépe's, who received us with great good humour. On being ushered in, we found the house crowded. It was festival time, and most of the company were gambling. They rose on our entrance; but I observed a holy padre so intent on the dice that he never looked at us. On enquiry, I found that the curates of the different villages are much addicted to gaming.

After an excellent supper, our host conducted us to the chief *plaza* of the village, where we entered a long dwelling, resembling a barn; here were assembled all the females of the place, old and young: some standing, some on benches, and others seated in the Turkish style, on the floor. The door was almost blocked up by the

men, who (except whilst dancing) did not mix with the women. The room was miserably lighted,—just making darkness visible. The music consisted of a small harp, a guitar, and a drum, formed by a small cask, or piece of wood hollowed out, and covered with hide; this is placed between the performer's knees; he rests his wrist on the edge, and beats time with his fingers. He is a most necessary person at these assemblies, entirely regulating the time to be kept by the other musicians. We were paraded round the room, presented to all the fair ones, and made acquainted with the first characters amongst the men. Country-dances commenced, followed by double fandangos, and waltzing,—in which latter we joined. I was much disappointed in the want of beauty, expecting in so temperate an atmosphere to have met many rosy cheeks; but not one did I find—all dark and Moorish.

Oct. 9th. Left Suta about eight o'clock, for Liva, accompanied by the Juez Politico and his wife. On the way we visited his farm-house, and found there a great quantity and variety of fruits; amongst others the cherry-moyeau tree, which, in this district, yields fruit considered equal to the cherry-moyeau of Peru. The tree, or rather shrub, grows to the height of fifteen or sixteen feet, throwing out many branches close to the ground: it is pretty to the eye, and begins to bear when four years old.

"At noon we arrived at Liva. We immediately procured a guide, and set off to visit what were said to have been worked as silver mines; but, after climbing with much labour over the high, and almost perpendicular mountains, in the rear of the town, we could find nothing to repay us

for our trouble, except an extensive view of the plains beneath; we did not see a sign of silver ore, but found several spots where the natives had formerly washed for gold. It was not until long after sunset that we regained the town, when we were glad to retire to rest.

Oct. 10th. At eight o'clock mounted horses, prepared for us by the alcalde, and, accompanied by a guide, proceeded to search for a reported mine of native silver. The first league lay over an open, barren-looking, sandy country; we then suddenly entered amongst thick brushwood, and latterly fine trees; from thence Liva is supplied with fuel and wood for building: we now descended by a zigzag road into a ravine, through which a mountain-torrent was most romantically dashing; the bright foam occasionally seen sparkling through the rich

foliage of the trees that shadowed its banks. With some difficulty and danger we selected a spot to wade through,—the water reaching considerably above the girths; we then wound along the ravine, following its course until we came to a part, where the mountains expand, and leave a considerable space, where we found a cottage, and a maize plantation. At this moment a heavy thunder-storm was coming on; we therefore hastened to the cottage, unsaddled our animals, and turned them loose in an enclosure, to graze; we then betook ourselves to the shelter of the cottage, as the rain commenced falling in torrents, with heavy thunder, and a good deal of very vivid forked lightning. We were detained an hour, but did not lose the time,—employing it in making a most substantial luncheon, and quaffing a good bowl of punch, which put us in spirits to commence our search, as soon as the storm was over;

which we did; but after two hours' hard toiling, could not find any indication of ore; and felt convinced, from the nature of the strata, that none was to be met with. We therefore returned to Liva, as soon as possible, provoked at having thrown away so much time on idle reports. Rivero and myself got fresh horses, and proceeded in another direction, and procured some specimens from spots that had been worked; they appeared to contain a small portion of silver.

Oct. 11th. Set off to visit the copper mines of Muniquera; for more than a league we rode through a sandy country, which appeared to have been once the bed of the ocean. We met with quantities of marine shells, chiefly petrified muscles, and cornea ammonis. I selected several of the finest; and quantities are to be found in a plain which is situated ten thousand feet above

the present level of the sea. I likewise found amongst the shells, a piece of a trunk of a tree petrified, which most likely grew in the neighbourhood previously to the deluge.

At eight we arrived at a small village, and stopped at the curate's house to breakfast; he proved to be the gambling parson; but although so much engrossed by the dice as not to salute us when we first met, he now made ample amends by the cordial reception he gave us. I found him a liberal-minded clever man, though he makes much more by gambling than by preaching, having lately at one sitting won four thousand dollars. Here we were joined by the owner of the copper mines we were going to visit. At one we arrived at the small village of Muniquera, and dismounted at the house of the Alcalde. The owner instantly sent for two of his workmen, pro-

vided with plenty of candles, and led the way to the mine. We came suddenly on the abrupt brow of a hill, which at an elevation of two hundred feet overlooked a mountain-torrent. By a winding and rather dangerous path, we descended to within twenty feet of the stream, and then came to the entrance of the mine. We were then supplied with old *roanas*, which we put on, tied handkerchiefs round our heads; and each with a lighted candle, entered the mine, preceded by the workmen as guides. At first we descended gradually for about one hundred feet, after which we rapidly rose as much, and then continued to pass carefully along, in nearly a horizontal position, for a hundred yards further; we then came to the extremity of the workings: here I found the *load* to be inclined upwards, and lying at about twenty degrees from the perpendicular. It was about three feet thick, and particularly

rich, yielding sixty and seventy per cent. of copper. The mine has been very badly worked, but with a small capital might be put in excellent order. The owner asked ten thousand dollars for the purchase of the mine, which we considered too much, as it is three to four days' mule carriage from Bogotá, where at present there is no very great consumption of copper. I have no doubt, however, that eventually this mine will become of great value, as there are many hundred tons of smelted ore, which, if properly passed through the furnace, would yet yield from twenty to thirty per cent. of copper. After this examination we dined with the owner, and got back to the curate's by eight in the evening.

Oct. 12th. Returned to Liva, and found the square crowded with country people, come from all the surrounding plains; it was

market-day; the busy scene formed a great contrast to the general deserted state of the town. The most staple commodity that I observed, was hide bags, filled with what they called *miel;* but instead of being honey, it was a species of molasses, obtained from the sugar-cane, of which they make *chicha;* besides this, all the common articles of life were in abundance, and some coarse cotton goods, partly native, partly British; this is the only market-day they have, on which every one has to lay in his week's provisions.

Oct. 13th. Liva, which we this morning left, is a small town, formerly rich and populous, but now does not contain above six hundred inhabitants. It is built, like most other Spanish towns in this part of Colombia, with a grand plaza, surrounded by quadras, or squares of buildings, and is situated at the foot of one of the branches

of the Andes. Liva still retains a *Cabildo*, with a judge at its head. There are three monasteries; but now the joint number of the monks is reduced to sixteen, and several of them blind. It likewise has a nunnery, in which are at present immured only two and-twenty nuns. By the liberal arrangement of the congress they can, however, demand their liberty if they think proper. These nuns educate a girl each; this should not be allowed, as they endeavour by every means in their power, to induce their scholars to follow their example, which, in the present state of the country, is bad policy to permit, as increase of population is much wanted. The most disagreeable circumstance attendant on Liva is its air, which is particularly dry, with generally a strong southerly breeze, at all times very painful to the eyes: it has inflicted blindness on many of the inhabitants, and causes considerable oppression on the chest.

From Liva we proceeded through Suta to Chiquinquira, where we arrived about four o'clock; we immediately went to the monastery attached to the principal church, which is dedicated to the Virgin. Señor Paris then introduced me to one of the friars, Philipe Ximènes, eighty-eight years of age, a fine hale-looking old man, very lively and animated. We took chocolate with him in his rooms, which were miserable in the extreme: he had two apartments, the one used for a bed-room and sitting-room, the other for a servant's room and kitchen, both excessively small, not exceeding ten feet square; the furniture in one apartment consisted of a dirty looking *catre*, or camp-bed, with a *toldo* over it, two or three wooden chairs, a small table and desk to write at, and a large trunk to contain his clothes; the walls were decorated with several pictures of holy fathers long departed; and a variety

of dirty monastical dresses hung on pegs, giving the room much the air of a Jew's clothes shop. The kitchen was as void of every comfort and requisite as the sitting-room: a charcoal fire, a copper chocolate pot, an earthen *olla* and *platilla* for frying eggs, comprised the cooking apparatus; and a couple of sheep's skins, with a tattered *roana*, in one corner, formed a bed for the servant. Such is the real style in which this venerable looking old friar lived; and from every information I could obtain, few are more comfortable than himself. It is really curious to find so many persons induced to enter for life into so wretched a state, where they debar themselves of almost every real comfort, and strive to make the existence of the rest of mankind as irksome as their own, by extraordinary penitences and troublesome outward show and form. We conversed over the present state of Colombia, and he said, "Ah!

things are not as they used to be; people are become poor, and cannot make such offerings to the holy Virgin as they were accustomed formerly to do." This was a cause of great regret to the good friar, who, as head brother, had to stop the completing of the church and monastery some years back; since which time the number of the brotherhood has much decreased, and I do not think will ever revive, so much are the eyes of a great part of the people opened.

Oct. 14th. After an early breakfast we went to visit the far-famed church of Chiquinquira, celebrated for being the depository of a miraculously formed picture of the Virgin—the story related by her worshippers is the following:

"About two hundred years before the present time, there stood a lonely Indian

cottage, embosomed in woods, (on the spot where now stands the church dedicated to the Virgin,) of which the only inhabitant was a poor woman, called Maria Ramos, to whom the Virgin sent her picture painted on canvas: some days afterwards a violent hurricane arose, destroyed the cottage, and buried the holy present in the ruins, the poor woman scarcely having time to save her life; she instantly went for shelter to the nearest curate's dwelling, and there related her misfortune and the loss of the valuable picture. The curate, fired with holy anxiety, immediately proceeded with attendants to the spot, and with much trouble rescued the sacred relic, piecemeal, from the ruins: no sooner were the different pieces deposited near each other, than they flew together in a miraculous manner, and formed a perfect picture as before. The curate then conveyed it to the neighbouring monastery of St. Domingo, where

it was safely deposited." The real story I believe to be this,—that the friars of the monastery of St. Domingo, observing the general credulity of the natives, determined to profit by it, and therefore planned and executed the present imposition; the result has been as they expected, for numerous have been the worshippers to the Virgin's shrine, besides presents and donations received to the amount of many millions of dollars. The present church and monastery attached to it, have cost alone two millions of dollars; and a small town has sprung up, with a population of a thousand souls, where formerly forests held their sway.

We entered the monastery by the hall, where we found ourselves surrounded by at least fifty or sixty small paintings, representing numerous miracles, said to have been performed by the influence of the Virgin; most of them presented to the

monastery, by her devotees, who had recovered from some severe illness, with which they had been afflicted, and attributed their recovery to having invoked the assistance of the Virgin; but when these offerings were not sufficiently numerous, the friars did not stand on any ceremony in placing representations of supposed miracles. Amongst others, they once had my friend Pépe Paris represented amongst a band of assassins, from whom the power of the Virgin saved him. The fact was, that during the civil war which raged amongst the different chiefs on their first shaking off the yoke of Spain, a rencontre took place in Bogotá, in which my friend found his brother extended on the ground, attacked and surrounded by several of an inimical party; thinking his brother's life in danger, he sprang forward with a drawn stiletto, wounded several, and rescued his brother. No sooner was this known by the

holy friars, than they had him painted on his knees returning thanks to the miraculous Virgin, with a view, on one side of the drawing, of the danger he had escaped; but no sooner was he aware of the painting being up, than he went and threatened to expose them if they did not instantly take it down, which was most reluctantly done, as it was considered a masterpiece in the miracle way, to which the pilgrims paid great respect. From the hall we entered the cloisters of the monastery, affording a fine and spacious lounge for the friars, but the whole in an unfinished state. We were then met by a friar, an acquaintance of Pépe's, who introduced us to a second; both then conducted us by a private door into the church, which is a handsome building, but inferior to the cathedral of Bogotá: men were busily employed in painting it, in which much want of taste was displayed, all

the colours of the rainbow being in requisition.

The spot immediately dedicated to the Virgin was surrounded with a railing, inside of which the friars performed mass, and against the outside I observed several pilgrims kneeling; they were of the lower class, dressed in white, each with a crucifix in his hand; they appeared to be most devoutly praying. When we entered the enclosure, the friars bowed to the altar and crossed themselves; then, advancing, each took up from a seat a dress of state, gaily embroidered, which they put on, and placing an episcopal cap on their heads, advanced to the altar bowing; they then divided, one to the right, the other to the left; then each took hold of a cord, and after chaunting a short prayer, up went the veil which had concealed the holy relic; instantly I heard a noise behind me, when

on turning round, I observed the pilgrims most furiously beating their breasts, and rapidly crossing themselves over and over again. On turning my eyes from this ridiculous scene, I examined the picture of the Virgin, which I found to be a very bad painting, stuck over with a profusion of very small emeralds, and some still smaller diamonds. The friars having satisfied our curiosity,—with the same form as on raising the veil, now drew it over again. We next went into the vestry, and were shewn a very fine emerald, which the friars valued at four thousand dollars, but I do not think it was worth a thousand; they informed us they had received presents of jewels to the amount of four hundred thousand dollars, but appeared rather confused when I asked them to produce them, and said they could not get the key of the place where they were locked up: the fact from good information I believe is, that they convert the

presents into cash as soon as they possibly can, after receiving them; taking care, however, to send them for sale to some distant province.

During the civil war in Colombia, Cerviére, a French officer, who commanded a considerable party, believed that if he took possession of the sacred image of the Virgin, all the worshippers would pay their adorations to it in the place to which he should convey it, and that in the capacity of the new pontiff, he should receive all the offerings which might be made at her shrine. Cerviére therefore seized the image, and carried it off; he however found himself much mistaken in his supposition, for no one went near him, considering that he had committed a sacrilege, and that the Virgin would manifest her power in some miraculous manner of restoring the relic to its proper abode. Shortly after this novel and

bold attempt for the raising of *ways and means*, Cerviére was defeated, and had considerable difficulty in escaping with his life, abandoning the image at a place called Cattésa. The enraged Dominicans immediately went there, and brought it back with great pomp; declaring Cerviére's defeat to have been a judgment from the Virgin as a punishment for his wicked conduct. Pilgrimages then redoubled, and the friars, in a pecuniary point of view, had rather to feel pleased than disappointed by the temporary seizure that had taken place.

Having seen every thing worth visiting, we bade adieu to our conductors, and returned to the house in the town at which we had slept. We now used all our interest to procure good fresh mules, in order to visit the celebrated emerald mines of Muso, but could not succeed; we how-

ever were introduced to a very intelligent friar who had lately seen them; who informed us, that formerly, in the time of the Spaniards, they were most productive and easily wrought, some being on the surface, others worked by horizontal excavations; the chief mine worked in the latter manner had caught fire from not being properly ventilated, and continued burning for two years. This, together with the commencing of the revolution, put an end to the work of the mines. Small emeralds are so plentiful, that it is a common thing to purchase poultry merely to kill them in search of emeralds, which they are fond of; several are often found in the entrails of a large fowl, and sometimes in a very pure and perfect state, though most generally flawed and very small, consequently of no intrinsic value, and only kept as curiosities. The very favourable account we received, determined

us to endeavour to procure from the government a grant of the whole of the mines, and to have them immediately put in work. Señor Rivero and myself elected our friend Pépe Paris, from his influence with the government, to carry the same into effect.*

At ten A. M. we mounted our horses, and left Chiquinquira; on getting into the plain we found the wind particularly disagreeable, blowing a strong and keen gale in our face, with, at the same time, a scorching sun, and scarcely a cloud to be seen. When we had proceeded about a league, we met several persons dismounted from their horses, and on their knees beside them, praying most devoutly, with their hands closed, in form of petitioning. At the first moment I was surprised at what should cause it; but on turning round, I observed

* These mines have since been secured by my friend.

that the towers of the cathedral of Chiquinquira were just visible. Señor Paris then informed me, that it is the custom for pilgrims to dismount at every mile, or oftener, after coming in sight of the cathedral, and offer up prayers to the Virgin.

We now entered an amazingly fine plain, about twenty leagues long, and five broad, the greater part of which is occupied by the Lake of Foucany, which in no part has more than six feet water, and in many places can be forded. Señor Paris has obtained a grant of it, and intends forming a company to drain it; which, from the position of the land, I think may be easily done, and a small expense, as there is a considerable river running out of it, which may easily be deepened so as to constitute a drain for almost the whole of the district. The temperature of this spot is most delightful, being from 62° to 68° of Farenheit.

The soil is peculiarly rich, corn would grow in the greatest abundance, and every kind of European produce would flourish. The surrounding scenery is magnificent, and here I pictured to myself smiling villages, and the busy hum of men, where at present there is nothing but a watery expanse, and not a soul to enjoy the climate and interesting views that encompass this lake. There is more than sufficient extent of land to employ a thousand industrious families; and Señor Paris proposes obtaining the population from Scotland, by forming a joint stock company for that purpose, as soon as he can get all the law papers relating to the grant properly arranged; and few agricultural speculations, I am led to believe, will be found as lucrative.

At sunset we arrived at the *hacienda* of Señor Flores, where we slept, and were most hospitably entertained.

Oct. 15th. After a profound sleep, for we were much fatigued with yesterday's journey, we rose at seven, and at ten proceeded back, by the villages of Yousa and Eskeline, to the *hacienda* of *Echarleche.*

Oct. 16th. Visited the Lagoon of Guatavita, and found the work going on but slowly; in consequence of which I determined to stop and direct it, whilst my friends set off to visit the iron mines of Animacon, and the salt mines of Zipaquira.

Oct. 18th. Mounted a hunter of this country, and joined Manuel Sanchez, the overseer of the hacienda of Echarleche, and several of his friends, who came up to the neighbourhood of the Lagoon, in quest of deer. We traversed a considerable extent of country without success; at last, in the thickets that cover the inside of the cone of the lake, a deer was started. I happened

to be on the rise overlooking the Lagoon, from whence the sight of the deer and dogs threading the mazes below was very interesting: at the same time the conical sides of the Lagoon vibrated and reverberated with the hallooings of the hunters. At last the poor deer, finding no chance of escape below, made directly up the steep side of the cone, and passing within a few yards of me, bounded down the outer side towards the plains below, closely followed by the dogs. Being tolerably well mounted, I followed at full speed, but nearly paid dear for my temerity; for the horses of the country are not accustomed to go fast down steep declivities; the consequence was, that three times my horse's nose touched the ground, but fortunately recovering himself each time, we at length reached the plain. The dogs in their descent frequently rolled headlong over and over again, from the great velocity at which they were going,

and, through the inequality of the side of the mountain, frequently making false steps; for the grass being long, the footing was rendered insecure. The plain proving too short for the dogs to come up with the deer, although close upon her, she succeeded in getting into a wood, from whence we could not drive her. Not a native of the country had followed me; and when we met, they almost looked on me as a madman, though a well-mounted Sussex fox-hunter would have thought nothing of the performance.

The evening proving cold, I ordered a wood fire to be kindled on a platform, which I had raised for the purpose, in the centre of the *rancha*, close to which I placed my table; and my friend Señor Ramirez, who had, for the last six months, been conducting the draining of the lake, as agent to Señor Paris, sat down with me

to a substantial repast, which was not deficient in game, procured in tolerable plenty in the neighbourhood, such as *guacheraccas*, snipe and ducks, besides coots, which, when skinned, are excellent eating.

The scene around me was replete with romantic interest, and gave great scope to imagination and reflection. I was here a stranger from a northern clime, seated close to the equator, in a foreign country; nearly ten thousand feet above the level of the sea; in a climate requiring the assistance of a blazing fire to keep me warm, instead of experiencing the heat incidental to the low level of the tropics; dwelling in a small thatched *rancha*, with a Colombian for my companion, and surrounded by Indians, the direct descendants of the original possessors of the soil, at that moment reposing their wearied limbs, after the toils of the day, in the very apartment where I was quaffing

my bowl of punch, and drinking success to the draining of that lake which their Indian ancestors considered the residence of their Deity, but which the present race (converted to Christianity) think it no sacrilege to mutilate and destroy: when I pictured to myself the vast difference between the humble slaves before me, and the wild and fierce temperament of their free forefathers, who deemed life worthless if not enjoyed with liberty; when I considered the vast population that once peopled the surrounding plains, and the small force of Spaniards that conquered and rendered them tributary, I was lost in reverie; and it was not until the cold, which warned me to attend to the expiring embers, had effectually laid hold of me, that I recovered from the abstraction into which I had so insensibly fallen. On such a night as this, I was suddenly roused by a most terrific noise, a mixture of loud roarings, and deep moans, which

had a most appalling effect at so late an hour. I immediately went out, attended by the Indians, to ascertain the cause; when I found, close to the *rancha*, a large herd of bullocks, collected from the surrounding country. They had encompassed a spot where we had killed a bullock in the morning; they appeared to be in the greatest state of grief and rage; they roared, they moaned, they tore the ground with their feet, and bellowed the most hideous chorus that can be imagined; and it was with the greatest difficulty that they could be driven away by the men and dogs. Since then, I have observed the same scene by daylight, and seen large tears rolling down their cheeks. Is this instinct merely, or does something nearer to reason tell them, by the blood, that one of their companions has been butchered? I certainly never again wish to view so painful a sight,—they actually appeared reproaching us.

Señor Ramirez informed me, that in the plains of the Casanarie, he has seen more than a hundred oxen round the spot where an animal has been killed, the whole herd rending the air with their horrid cries. These wails and lamentations they will frequently repeat for a month, by which time the ground has imbibed, and the air carried off, all vestige of the slaughter.

Oct. 20th. I took a guide with me, an intelligent young man, and mounting my horse rambled over a very large extent of country, and visited innumerable spots where the Indians used to bury their dead. I found that the burial places of the chiefs had been always chosen on commanding summits, overlooking the plains below, and they were generally interred singly; whereas the lower class were buried in large subterraneous caverns, formed for that purpose some hundred feet below.

During my excursion I had a sight of the extensive *paramos*, which for nine months in the year are never entered, on account of the perpetual mists and fogs that envelope them. During the three other months, November, December, and January, they are only visited by huntsmen, either to procure wild cattle, or to obtain deer,—thirteen or fourteen of which may be killed in a day by forty or fifty dogs.

From seeing the great number of burial places of the Indians, called *guacas*, I determined to ask permission to inspect them, and wrote accordingly to the Intendente of Bogotá for permission, which was immediately granted—with the proviso, that if I obtained any treasure, I must pay five per cent. on it to the state.

In consequence of this permission, I opened a considerable number of sepul-

chres; but as they are all nearly similar, I need only describe one of them. This appeared to have been made for a chief, and was on a most commanding situation. The spot was indicated by a small hollow appearance in the ground. After removing about a foot of turf and earth, we came to an amazingly large stone, about twelve feet long, eight feet wide, and nine inches thick; it was a kind of sandstone; this we were obliged to break, and with great difficulty removed, when in two pieces. It had rested on a shelf piece all round; the grave was formed in sandstone. We at first came to earth, and then to finely variegated sand, rammed down so hard, as to appear almost an integral part of the sandstone, but manifestly different, as it crumbled to fine dust when once broken out, whereas the natural strata adhere more firmly together. After digging down for about eight feet, we came to earthenware,

of a rough description, and rudely painted, some of which had been used for water, others for cooking utensils, from the evident marks of fire on them; the whole contained nothing but sand. I was obliged to erect a windlass, and use buckets to send the sand up in. At about fourteen feet depth we met with some human bones, the thigh and arm pieces, but no scull or teeth; and after continuing our labour to the depth of thirty feet, we reached the original native strata. All the graves I opened, yielded nothing but earthenware, called by the natives *losa*; from which I am led to believe that on the death of an Indian, all his riches were thrown into the Lake of Guatavita, in honour of the Deity; for in other parts, where they have no holy place of worship, their wealth has been found buried in their graves with them. In Peru, large fortunes have been made by discovering the cemetery of a chief; and some were so deep, as to ren-

der it necessary to work them by candle light.

One day, whilst I was superintending the excavation then making, the sky suddenly became obscure; a dense black cloud approached, and rested almost in a line with the brow of the hill where I was seated; in an instant it discharged a vivid flash of forked lightning, which, darting into the plain beneath, struck a large ox and killed it on the spot; the thunder rolled along the base of the hills in solemn grandeur, each peal being reverberated by the hollows of the mountains, and resounding most powerfully along the chain of hills which extended far east and west, whilst the hail and rain fell in torrents. On examining the body of the dead animal, after the abatement of the storm, no mark could be discovered where the electrical matter had entered or escaped.

Oct. 25th. Having completed the canal, so that eight feet of water might be drawn from the lake in two or three days, I determined on opening an embouchure, sufficient to let two square feet of water keep running out during the night. This I did, and retired to rest with the pleasing noise of the roar of the water dashing through the canal, and winding its way to the plains below.

Oct. 26th. Repaired, by daylight, to the entrance of the lake, which I found had decreased about six inches; but, as I anticipated, considerable damage was done to the canal, the force of the water gradually wearing away the slate and sand-stone rock. I therefore stopped the running of the water; determined on making a saw-pit; and cutting some hundreds of planks from the neighbouring wood, by means of requisite tools obtained from Bogotá by a *peon* des-

patched for that purpose, I in a few days commenced planking the sides of the canal, and properly secured it.

The weather now increased in coldness. Hail frequently fell, and the whole country, of a morning, was covered with a brilliant hoar-frost. On Sunday, 2d of November, I mounted my horse at nine o'clock, and descended to the village of Guatavita, where I met my friend Señor Paris. Dined with the curate, who ate most voraciously, and in such amazing quantities, that I was not at all astonished at his being afflicted with the gout. It was market-day; the square before the house filled with Indians from the surrounding plains. I walked through the market-place, and found the goods for sale consisted chiefly of coarse articles, manufactured in the country; the foreign merchandize appeared principally from Scotland,

and selling at from three to four hundred per cent. above the prime cost.

The bells of the church were ringing a most deafening peal, in honour of the dead, and the curate preached a sermon in remembrance of them; but, with all his rhetoric, only succeeded in collecting eleven dollars, to be appropriated to the repairs of the church. This was duly registered in the account-book in my presence, and the Indian churchwardens put their mark to it. A group now entered the church, consisting of a young couple, about to become man and wife, accompanied by their respective friends. They were desirous of consulting the curate on the arrangement of settlement, which they did without hesitation before me; and then appointing the wedding-day, withdrew, after receiving the curate's blessing.

In the evening, my friend Señor Paris accompanied me back to my mountainous retreat, and during the ride related to me the following anecdote of the reverend father we had just left:—

"Having occasion for a considerable sum of money, in order to enter into a lucrative speculation that offered, he racked his brain in order to find out the means by which the required sum might be raised, and at last hit upon the following expedient.

"He preached an eloquent sermon, and told his flock, that if they wished to make sure of going to Heaven, on quitting this transitory world, they should each select a patron Saint; and he would petition the Great Father of all to permit them to call the Saint they should choose "*brother*," by whose powerful interference and mediation

they would be sure to have a place secured to them in Paradise.

"The following Sunday he informed his congregation that his prayers had succeeded, and that each might now adopt his favourite and favouring Saint, whom, however, it would be necessary to enter in a book, opposite the name of each individual. The reverend father then produced a large book for this purpose, but not one name would he insert without first receiving from each person four reals (two shillings English), which the poor Indians found themselves compelled to pay, in order to secure their supposed happiness in another world. And thus the crafty curate obtained the sum he required,—gaining his end without much scruple as to the means."

On the 12th, the canal being well secured with planks, I began by running off three

square feet of water, and kept the same quantity flowing until the evening of the 15th; when I had succeeded in decreasing the lake nearly ten feet, which rendered it necessary to deepen the canal.

Having on the 15th November put every thing in a fair train for speedily draining the lake, I determined on returning to Bogotá; and leaving the undertaking in the hands of Señor Ramairez, whom I had found a most agreeable companion, mounted my horse, and after a ride of nine hours reached the capital.

CHAPTER XIV.

BOGOTA' — PATRIOTIC TERTULIAS — SURRENDER OF PUERTO CAVELLO — PIC-NIC PARTY TO MONTSERRAT — REVENUE — ARMY — NAVY — CHRISTMAS FEASTS — FINAL DEPARTURE FROM THE CAPITAL.

I FOUND my friends now lodged in an excellent house in the Plaza de San Francisco. I learnt that during my absence the society had been improved by the introduction of two evening parties, called *patriotic tertulias:* the one given by the Vice-President, to which only men were invited, he being a bachelor; the other by the Minister of Finance, who, being a married man, had in-

vited ladies also. I received a general invitation to both. The form of that sent by the Minister of Finance was as follows:

"José Mª. del Castillo espera del favor de V— qe se sirva concurrir à la tertulia patriótica que se tendra en sa posada todos los lunes desde las siete y media de la noche.

"S. C. Cochrane."

TRANSLATION.

"José Mª. del Castillo requests the favour of your company at the patriotic assembly, which will be held in his house every Monday evening, at half-past seven.

"C. Cochrane, Esq."

I found these parties very well arranged, and they promise to introduce a great improvement in the style of society throughout the country, as no one attends who has not received an invitation, — a thing pre-

viously not regarded, and consequently the company had frequently many unwelcome intruders.

On the evening of the 9th, Mrs. General English gave a ball and supper, which the Vice-President attended. During the entertainment, Major Wilthen, an Englishman, aide-de-camp to General Paez, arrived from Puerto Cavello, in the short space of twenty days, a thing never done by an individual before, and brought with him the official account of the capture of Puerto Cavello; so that Colombia was *free!* The Spaniards had not one foot of ground left to them in the country! This news caused great joy, and added much to the hilarity of the evening.*

On a particularly fine morning, I was invited to join Mrs. English and party in

* For the official account, see Appendix.

an excursion to Montserrat. About eleven o'clock, Mrs. English, Mr. Jones, and myself set off, and leaving the city, began gradually mounting the ridge to the eastward. We first arrived at Bolivar's Quinta, situated in a small romantic spot at the foot and opening of the deep ravine that divides Montserrat from La Guadaloupe, which was on our right hand as we ascended. From the Quinta there is a commanding view of the city of Bogotá, and the whole of the plain. The house attached to the Quinta is small, but formed an agreeable retreat for the General, after the fatigues of the day were over; here he retired, and entertained his friends with social dinner-parties, all stiff etiquette and ceremony being laid aside; and here he is said to have appeared to great advantage, evincing the good-humour and urbanity of his disposition, though never descending from his finished, gentlemanly manner.

The house has verandas all round, from which there is egress to the garden, which is embosomed in a wood, and laid out in the French style; but since the absence of the President, has been allowed to remain much neglected. They are building a pretty summer-house in the Chinese style, at the upper end, on a rising ground, planned by the Librador previous to his departure. There is a tolerably good cold-bath, to which many people resort; this accommodation is much wanted in the city, and might be formed at small expense, and with no difficulty, as streams run through the capital, which would afford a perpetual supply of water.

On quitting the Quinta, we found the ascent much steeper, and so much so by degrees, that Mrs. English's saddle evinced evident signs of its intention of quitting the mule's back; we consequently stopped, and placing her saddle on my horse,

I mounted her mule myself, and we again set forward, sometimes scrambling up an almost perpendicular acclivity, where the animals we rode could scarcely find a secure footing; at other times, advancing by a zigzag path, with a tremendous abyss on one side, which seemed opening its jaws to engulph us. At every forty or fifty yards, we stopped to contemplate the perpetually varying scenery around, gradually obtaining a bird's-eye view of the picturesque plain below. There are no trees higher than Bolivar's Quinta, and the brushwood terminates before you reach the summit. About one o'clock we arrived at the top, where is situated the church of Nuestro Señor, dedicated to our Saviour; it is a small building with the clergyman's house attached, which has several spare rooms in it, formerly allotted for the residence of monks, or of military officers sent

thither in punishment for some fault. On the opposite mount of Guadaloupe is a similar building; both these churches have a singular, and almost magic appearance from the city, when illuminated by numberless lamps on the eves of their grand festivals; on which occasions, quantities of rockets are thrown up, and various displays of fire-works take place. In this church a figure, highly venerated, of our Saviour is kept. Once a year a grand procession comes from the city to Montserrat, to beg that the figure may be given to them, in order to be conveyed through the chief streets of the city, thereby securing it a blessing. The figure being obtained, is then paraded through Bogotá, and for the night deposited in the church of Santa Clara. The following morning a similar procession returns the representation of our Saviour to its proper abode.

Here we were met by our friend Colonel Desmenard and his party. We dismounted, and turned our animals loose in the court-yard of the pastor's dwelling, and then walked out to observe the beauties of the surrounding scenery. We were now standing four thousand feet above the capital of Colombia, which lay stretched beneath our feet, and so perfect a *coup-d'œil* had we, that we could distinguish the court-yards of the convents, and with a good glass discern all that was going on within them. The city appeared to much advantage, seeming regularly built; the striking object which the cathedral formed, together with the churches, and monasteries, adding materially to the effect of the whole: besides these, the bridges, and the silvery streams meandering through them; the streets by no means deserted; horsemen prancing across the different squares, all combined to render it a view rarely exceeded in extent or

variety; sounds from the distant bells of the churches and monasteries occasionally reached our ears, and added a pleasing interest to the scene.

The rear of the city rests on the rise of the mountain, which at the base is, in many parts, covered with luxuriant vegetation, comprising a great quantity of small spreading wood, which, added to the bold shape of the mountains, forms a fine back-ground; whilst in front, the plain of Bogotá, gently sloping away, seems gradually lost in a fine still lake, beautifully reflecting the rays of the sun; and through this mass of water is seen the main road to Honda, (like a thread in the midst,) elevated by artificial means to the height of fourteen or sixteen feet from the level of the river. In the centre is an arch about sixty feet span, sufficient to carry off the usual water, and prevent the overflow of the road, which but rarely

happens; and the river Bogotá is seen pursuing its course until it is lost in the fall of the Tequendama. The raised road is nearly a league in length, and ascends gradually from the beginning to the middle; and then the descent is as gentle to its termination amidst the high ridges of mountains, westward of the plain of Bogotá, which encompass and border the watery expanse. On the right is a small ridge, or as it may be termed island, in the plain, covered in many parts with wood, which tends to relieve the eye, and diversify the sameness of the prospect. Far in the distance is seen Zipaquira, where are the famous salt mines, supplying the greatest part of New Grenada; likewise a ridge of mountains rich in coal and iron; and a little in their rear, those of Muso, abounding in emeralds. To the left you have an occasional peep at distant plains, winding amongst the various ridges of the Andes; and far in the back-

ground rise the mountains in the rear of Ibagüe, whose summits, perpetually covered with snow, were distinctly seen: behind us was one expanse of mountainous country, which I am puzzled to describe, from the enormous abysses and great irregularities it presented. The plain beneath our feet appeared well stocked with cattle grazing; and I figured to myself, how much valuable ground is to be obtained with but little trouble, by draining the waters off the whole of its surface, as the river Bogotá runs through the plain, and would much facilitate the undertaking; though this measure would spoil the view from this spot.

Here the idea is strongly forced on the mind, that the whole of this vast plain has been an inland lake, which has gradually decreased by evaporation and subterraneous drainings, and yielded its banks to the cultivation of man; of late years the

lake does not appear to have diminished greatly, according to the information I could glean; but I am convinced of the practicability of draining it, and at no very great expense. Whoever undertakes it, will be amply recompensed for his pains, as the soil is particularly rich, and there is a ready market for the produce. Whilst lost in such speculative and pleasing ideas, and wrapt up in the magnificent scene before me, much enlivened by a brilliant sun and a fine blue sky, scarcely tinged by a cloud, I was suddenly brought to myself by a very cold and shrill blast of wind, that rushed round the end of the old edifice, from the gulf between this mountain and that of Guadaloupe, in the ravine between which it had been chained, bringing with it a momentary cold damp mist. I looked for my friends, but they had fled: not being so wrapt up in wandering ideas of the future state of this fine country as myself,

they had retreated on the first feeling of the sharp air. I hallooed most lustily, and was answered by one of the party. I directed my steps towards them, and found they had descended from the top of the mount to the eastward, about fifty yards, and were seated round a well, or small reservoir, of fine spring-water, surrounded with thick and rich brushwood, which here and there grows in spots protected from the cold mountain winds. The change of temperature was astonishing; I should say twenty degrees at least, but I had no thermometer with me: thus, from being nearly frozen on the summit, here, at only fifty yards distance from that spot, I was almost too warm; and sitting down under the shade of a bush, I quaffed the cool water from the spring.

Hunger by this time hinted that the dinner-hour must be near, and we accord-

ingly returned to the curate's house, where we were very soon regaled with a most excellent and substantial repast; indeed I was surprised they could manage so well; as on looking into the kitchen I found nothing but a few stones placed triangularly, beneath a wood fire in the centre of the floor, by which they had cooked numerous made-dishes. I fear an English cook would have left us without our dinner, before she would have attempted to prepare a repast, with such accommodation.

Dinner being over, we sauntered about for a short time, until the declining sun warned us that it was time to commence our descent. We therefore bade adieu to the good clergyman, mounted our horses, and began to descend the mountain. Mr. English and myself took the lead of the party, which was tolerably numerous; and

having completed half our journey, made a halt to look back on our friends behind, who were winding down the mountain side. Their appearance was very picturesque; the ladies in their variegated dresses, some mounted, others on foot, each followed by a gentleman to prevent accident; the rear closed by the servants of the country, carrying on their heads the empty baskets, which had been filled with provisions in the morning. The whole line was in single file, and took up a considerable extent of ground; at one moment disappearing, the next instant in sight again, and cautiously winding round the brink of a precipice, where on the slightest slip of the foot, certain and inevitable destruction must ensue: the sun gently setting in the west, threw his mild farewell beams over the scene, and heightened the interest of the whole picture, which may be more easily conceived than described.

The produce of the soil is about eight millions of dollars annually in vegetables, fruit, and grain; besides eight millions in export, and two millions in merchandize, making a total of eighteen million dollars. The duty on imports is eighteen per cent., and twelve per cent. on exports. This gives nearly eight million dollars per annum under the Spanish government, but does not now produce two-thirds of that sum, in consequence of the great contraband trade and the peculations of the collectors. The custom-house officers are badly paid, and in consequence easily bribed; it would certainly be much to the interest of the government to give them a salary which would set them above corruption; whereas their present stipend not sufficing for their support, they are compelled to increase it in the best way they can. The *Alcabalas* were suppressed by the law of the 3d of October, on the

sales of productions for food, and those of the arts; and reduced to two and a half per cent. on sales of foreign commodities and landed property. The congress, after abolishing various taxes, decreed a direct tax on the clear incomes of citizens.

The Customs are the source of one of the most productive imposts; and leaving out of consideration their present intrinsic faults or merits, the object of the legislature ought to be the increase of their amount, with advantage to the national wealth. Moderate import duties, the strictest vigilance in the ports, officers well selected and sufficiently paid, rewards to the discoverers of frauds, the liberty of exporting the produce of the country without taxes, the tariffs moderate, and the most severe punishments inflicted upon officers who abuse their trusts; these are the measures which should be adopted,

and which could not be hitherto done,—in order that this revenue may be a powerful aid to the wants of the nation.

The soldiery consists of infantry, hussars, lancers, and artillery; but, except the President's guard, who have a dress uniform, they are indifferently and variously equipped, with seldom more than a coat, and blue pantaloons, without boots or shoes. The lancers are armed with lances only, the hussars have carbines and sabres. They have but little discipline generally, though individually they are good horsemen. They catch their horses after they have been turned out, by driving them into the square of San Francisco in a body, and mount, without dressing, or grooming them in any way. Dismounted cavalry do duty at the palace, and change guard every morning, with a band preceding. The officers have uniforms, sometimes red, sometimes blue,

a round or cocked hat, and their jackets embroidered, as chance or fancy may dictate, with but little attention to general uniform.

The soldiers' rations are fixed by law at a pound of meat, a pound of bread, and four ounces of rice per man per diem.

The infantry is divided into battalions; twenty-five of the line, and five of light troops, all in eight companies. In each battalion of the line is one company of light infantry, one of grenadiers, and six of fusileers; each company consisting of one hundred soldiers, and four officers.

The cavalry is composed of twenty-four squadrons, each of which consists of three companies, with fifty men and three officers, for old tactics; and two companies, of eighty men and four officers, for modern discipline. The six squadrons forming the

President's guard compose a brigade; to these are added ten battalions of foot, the whole of picked and distinguished men.

The artillery is not in good discipline. In 1821, the army consisted of twenty-two thousand nine hundred and seventy-five men, but is now increased to thirty-two thousand four hundred and seventy-six men; namely, twenty-five thousand seven hundred and fifty infantry, four thousand two hundred and ninety-six cavalry, and two thousand five hundred and twenty artillery; exclusive of four hundred artisans employed in the workshops.

The staff of each battalion consists of a commandant, a major, two adjutants, an ensign, a surgeon, a chaplain, an armourer, drum-major, and seven pioneers. The staff of the cavalry is nearly similar.

There is a city militia, which is tolerably good; but that composed of the Indians beggars all description; one has a hat with a feather in it, another a pair of blue pantaloons, or an old military coat; the men of all sizes, ages, and colours, and can only be compared to Falstaff's ragged regiment, or the army of Bombastes Furioso.

The garrisons are strong, but badly defended. Powder-mills are employed near Bogotá and Quito, but the produce is trifling and inefficient. A supply is therefore procured from England, whose merchandize and materials, merchants and soldiers, customs and manners, are most approved in Colombia. The journals of England establish and guide public opinion, and her vessels protect and increase the trade, almost exclusively. In fact, to be an Englishman is a *passe par tout* throughout the republic.

The navy consists of nineteen ships of war, namely, six corvettes, seven brigs, and six *goletas* (schooners); these are manned principally by foreigners. Some money out of the funds produced by suppressed convents, is destined for naval education. The navy expenditure amounts to one million sterling,—a large sum certainly; but it requires much to form a navy which will hereafter cost less to support.

On the evening of the 10th of December, I observed workmen making preparations for the enclosing of the Grand Plaza for the bull-fights, &c. of the coming feasts, which are held by an order of the Legislature, from the 24th to the 30th of December, to commemorate their victories over the Spaniards, and to rejoice at their liberty and the independence of their country.

At the last year's feast, they had, on the first day, a magnificent display in imitation of the ancient tournaments. Four different bodies of horsemen, who had previously practised, appeared in the lists, attired after the manner of the knights-errant of old, belonging to the four quarters of the world. Galleries and seats were erected round the whole of the Grand Plaza, and every spot was crowded to excess. Bands of martial music played alternately, whilst the knights, who were some of the principal inhabitants, went through various difficult evolutions on horseback. They then rode at a ring with the lance; afterwards with sabres demolished Turks' heads; then threw the javelin; and lastly, rode with shortened lances at a figure on a pivot, with one hand extended, which it required great dexterity to strike in such a manner as to turn the figure round, and yet avoid a severe slap on the back from the

other hand of the figure, which turned swiftly on its centre when struck. Those who did this feat dexterously, and escaped the blow, were greatly applauded; whilst those who were not sufficiently skilled to get away in time, were laughed at by the highly amused spectators. The most adroit of the knights were then selected by the judges, and received various prizes from the Queen of the Tournament, who was generally the most beautiful young lady of the place.

This year, however, a sufficient number of knights could not be collected, on account of the scarcity of money; the requisite dresses and equipments being very expensive. The 24th of December 1823 was therefore ushered in by a more modern scene of interest, and one of more utility.

On the morning of that day, Señor Triana, director of the Lancasterian school, present-

ed for public examination twelve youths, who acquitted themselves excessively well in replying to questions in the Old and New Testament, the Spanish grammar, and arithmetic. Under the old Spanish Government all attempts to instruct the rising generation of the lower class, and to diffuse knowledge in general, were checked and crushed; but the first care of the republic of Colombia has been to form schools, where information and learning may be attained by all, and the humblest individual in the whole community may enjoy the advantages of education.

In the course of the day several bulls were let loose for the amusement of the populace, who tormented them until evening. The old Spanish custom of bull-fighting has entirely fallen into disuse since the Spaniards have been expelled from the country; and even the present sport seems to be dis-

couraged, and will, I have no doubt, eventually cease.

On the morning of Christmas-day, the bells of all the churches, monasteries, &c. rang out a loud peal; and about ten o'clock the cathedral was filled by the inhabitants. The *Te Deum* was sung, thanksgivings offered to the Almighty, for the mercies he had shewn in aiding the endeavours of the people in their struggle for liberty; and an appropriate sermon was preached by Mariano Bernal, rector of the college of San Buenaventura.

After this, the new National Library was opened to the public; this, by a decree of the executive was placed under the charge of the College of San Bartolomé, the rector of which, Doctor José Maria Esteves, has done a great deal towards forming and

perfecting it. The number of volumes which it contains at present is from ten to twelve thousand.

The Court of Directors for the manumission of slaves then assembled, and those slaves who were deemed worthy of their freedom were placed on an elevated platform in the centre of the plaza. Their names, to the amount of thirty-three, were called over; their recommendations were then read; and after a suitable lecture from the president of the court to them, to conduct themselves as became good men and worthy citizens, they were pronounced free, and dismissed to enjoy the first taste of liberty and independence.

In the evening, some of the cleverest scholars of the College of San Bartolomé performed the celebrated tragedy of "Maho-

ma" at the theatre, with much ability, and great applause, which they also obtained in a patriotic piece, called "The Triumph of Liberty," which preceded the tragedy.

On the 26th there was a lottery formed for the benefit of the poor, containing ten prizes, provided by the City Council: those to whom no prize fell, received some small pecuniary assistance. In the evening a brilliant ball and splendid supper were given in the house of the Mayor *(Intendente.)*

The next day (the 27th) all the military assembled, and being formed in column, and headed by the *Commandante-general*, and various chiefs and officers, paraded through the Calle del Commercio and principal square, singing from time to time patriotic songs, and proclaiming the principal victories, and the chiefs by whom they have been gained.

In the evening, the brightest scholars of the College of Rosario performed at the theatre the tragedy of "The Destruction of the Knights Templars," with great *éclat;* and also the monologue of Ariadne. This was preceded by a prologue, replete with patriotic sentiments, and well calculated to excite the most lively enthusiasm in favour of liberty.

Dec. 28th. This day a sum of money, given by the citizens, was distributed amongst the military invalids; the town council conducting them from their barracks to an elevated platform in the centre of the plaza, attended by a band of music. There were read aloud the exploits of each individual, the various battles in which he had distinguished himself, and that in which he was disabled; a crown of laurel was placed on his brow, and the money given. When this was concluded, they returned to their bar-

racks, accompanied by the Vice-President, officers, &c.; a band of music followed, and patriotic effusions issued from the mouth of every one. During the day, masks paraded the streets, and the evening was concluded by a masked-ball at the theatre.

On the evening of the 29th, the most accomplished students *de la Universidad Tomistica* performed the play of "La Elmira," with distinguished applause; and on the 30th, the troops of the garrison went through the evolutions of a sham-fight. Thus terminated the feasts, during the whole of which the inhabitants had much amusement and gratification; enjoying themselves without overstepping the bounds of decency and moderation, or committing any breach of good order and good manners.

The crafty government of Spain, led and directed in every movement by the selfish

and bigotted policy of Roman Catholicism, sought, by dazzling the eyes and amusing the senses of the Colombians, to restrain thought, and divert reflection from dwelling on their state of bondage. To this end, they fixed innumerable feast-days, festivals, holidays, &c., and had ceremonies without end, and diversions innumerable; which encouraged idleness, and prevented the oppressed people from attending uninterruptedly to any modes of business and employment which tend to give solidity to the mind, and fixedness to thought. But this was an overstrained, and, as the event proved, an unavailing policy;—the bow may be too slack, as well as too tight. The present government, at the same time that they have greatly diminished, and are still diminishing the number of holidays, yet are unwilling to deprive the people of harmless, and even useful recreation; but have so contrived, that even their festivals shall call to mind the great object

they have achieved, and the liberty they have acquired; as the majority of these holidays are to commemorate some great and decisive steps, which tended to the recovery and security of their freedom from the tyranny and base oppression of their Spanish tyrants.

Having some spare time, previous to the period at which I expected the vessel destined for the pearl fishery to arrive, I determined to employ it usefully, in regaining the sea-coast by the little frequented route of Choco, instead of going by the more direct way of Maracaybo—hoping to develope some of the riches of the Andes. I was delayed some time by the difficulty of procuring money, no one being inclined to take bills either on Jamaica or London, not even at a large discount; thinking it quite in moderation to demand fifty per cent. discount. This state of things cannot,

however, long continue, for some of the principal merchants appear desirous of fixing a regular rate of exchange; and I have no doubt but that when a new loan is raised in England, and public credit restored, money will be as easily procured for bills of exchange here as in any other part of the world. A more distressing scene than an exhausted public treasury cannot be well imagined. Universal distrust is engendered, and general confusion and perplexity arise. The government is compelled to meet the positive exigencies of the state, and supplies are indispensable. Desperate emergencies have desperate remedies, and individuals are oppressed to obtain the required aid and replenishment of the treasury. As but precarious security can be given at such times, people having money are unwilling to part with it, and, unable to obtain it as a gift or loan, the government is under the necessity of using compulsory

measures, which, although they may answer the temporary convenience, cannot fail to produce evil results. Each individual fears that himself may be the next object for the government to select, and the distrust becomes more extensive and more alarming. Amongst many other ills, this measure of coercion causes universal stagnation of trade. From such a step a government should always refrain, for the maxim of "honesty is the best policy" is equally applicable to a state as to an individual. An arbitrary act of seizing on the property of any one soon flies through a country, and each man immediately endeavours to secure his capital from the grasp of such a government, and being unwilling to employ it in traffic, all trade is paralyzed, and the government loses in detail a hundred-fold by such a breach of good faith. On such occasions as these, fortunate are the persons, if dependent on the government for support, who are stationed

in or near the capital; for I have known taxes to a considerable amount to come in at ten in the morning, and at four in the evening not a shilling left in the treasury. Those far from the scene of government are too often forgotten; and to a most wretched degree of distress have the armies in the distant part of the republic been reduced, for want of the necessary means to procure food and clothing.

On the 10th of December, I paid all my farewell visits; and on the 11th, at four in the evening, left Bogotá, accompanied by a number of my friends, who escorted me to a considerable distance in the plain, where a jovial member of the party produced a bottle, and we drank farewell to each other, with many wishes expressed for meeting again in Old England.

CHAPTER XV.

JOURNEY — BOCA DEL MONTE—LA MESA—MODE OF SWIMMING MULES OVER A RIVER — MAGDALENA — PURIFICATION — SALDANEA—RELIGIOUS PROCESSION—INDIAN TRIBUTE—GOLD-WASHING—MINES OF APONE — PASSAGE ON A RAFT DOWN THE RIVER SALDANEA TO COYAMA—PURIFICATION — SHAM BULL-FIGHT—COCK MASS—IBAGUE.

About seven P. M. I stopped at the village of Fontabon for the night. On the 12th, rose at daylight, thermometer 42°. Continued my journey to La Mesa. The first part lay across the plains of Bogotá, over which

I cantered for three hours, when I came to *Boca del Monte*, a gap in the parapet of hills, which, I have no doubt, once confined the waters that lay here. The view from this spot was highly beautiful and striking: behind me lay the extensive plain of Bogotá, terminating in lofty eminences; and before me was the cleft in the mountain, the sides of which were covered with thick and verdant brushwood. But to give a true description of the deep and astonishing glen, which presented itself abruptly beneath my feet, is utterly impossible. Its depth is three thousand feet, and its sides are thickly covered with fine trees, whose size and verdure enrich the scene; a spiral road winds from the summit to the base, down which, as far as the eye could reach, were to be seen mules and muleteers slowly winding their way, diminished by distance to moving specks. It is impossible to see the bottom of this vast abyss, (down which I was pre-

paring to descend,) in consequence of the peculiar formation of the mountains themselves, which jut out in various shapes, adding much to the romantic aspect of the road, and not a little to the difficulty of travelling. I commenced my descent by steps formed of stone, about ten feet wide, eight feet broad, and a foot to eighteen inches deep, each step inclining from the back gradually to the edge. In consequence of the many gaps, and great irregularities in these flights, I was forced to dismount and lead my horse, as a stumble might have been attended with serious consequences. Whilst descending I was struck with admiration at the novel and striking scenery around, above, and beneath me. At about two thousand feet from the level of the plain, I arrived at a ridge of mountains, entirely covered with trees; bearing the *Cámpana* in abundance, a white bell-flower, peculiar to this part, and in such quantities as to whiten the whole top of

the groves, which flourished there, and extended a considerable distance along the mountain.

The change of climate was here very evident, the thermometer being at 78°, that is, from twelve to fourteen degrees hotter than in Bogotá, which is scarcely a six or eight hours' ride distant. The road along this ridge was excessively bad, and so completely cut up, that the baggage-mules frequently stick fast, and are obliged to be unladen before they can be extricated from the mire and deep ruts. There is much traffic by this route to the capital; but, owing to the drained and exhausted funds of the treasury, no money can be yet spared to put the roads in proper order, and render them convenient for travelling.

At four P. M. I arrived at the small village of Tenja, where I stopped to rest my mule,

and regale myself with some of the *chicha* of the country. I enquired the nature of the road to the town of La Mesa, and was informed that it was level, and good travelling; but, to my sorrow, found it quite the reverse—hilly, and bad; so that I did not reach the place until half-past six, although the distance was less than three leagues. On my arrival I went to the house of Señor Areñas, the *administrádor* of tobacco and the post-office, and delivered to him my letter of introduction, in consequence of which I was most kindly received. No sooner, however, had I supped, than, being much fatigued with my day's journey, I fell asleep on the sofa, and did not awake until midnight, when I was conducted to a comfortable bed.

Dec. 13th. Rose at seven, and learnt that fresh mules and a guide would be in readiness about noon. I now quite casually,

though, as the event proved, very fortunately enquired if it were necessary to take any provisions for my journey on to Purification; and, on being answered in the affirmative, immediately made purchases necessary for a four days' travelling; my guide, or caporál, having promised to conduct me in that time to Purification.

. . .

At one o'clock I left La Mesa, and journeyed onwards through a very picturesque country, where, however, there is but very little cultivation, notwithstanding the fertility of the soil, and the fitness of situation. Still descending, I arrived at Anapoyma at four o'clock, there being no other place, short of a day's journey, where grazing-ground could be found for the mules. Here I found Farenheit's thermometer at 85° in the shade, a heat so oppressive as to compel me to cast off all flannel and warm apparel, and assume my coolest clothing, with a riband only

round my throat, it being impossible to wear any handkerchief.

I rose at daylight. At six o'clock the thermometer was at 66° 30′. The caporál was so dilatory in getting the mules ready, that we did not start until eight o'clock. Having obtained the necessary route, I pushed on briskly before the baggage-mules, and, as I descended, was gratified with an occasional peep at the river Bogotá, winding amongst the thickly-wooded glens beneath; now appearing, and then again lost to view by the intervening foliage. On reaching the level, I crossed the river, which here dwindles to a comparative stream, and not more than two or three feet deep at the ford. On reaching the other side, I gained a beautifully situated cottage, or *rancha*, embosomed in the trees, in front of which was a large shed for cattle. I breakfasted at the *rancha*,

and afterwards reclined, during the heat of the day, in my hammock, suspended in the shed, which was likewise tenanted by myriads of a species of large hornet of beautiful appearance. I took care not to disturb them, having no inclination to be stung to death; and as they were just as pacifically disposed I laid at my ease, until I was called into the *rancha* to give my aid to a poor fellow who was suffering under a severe attack of intermittent fever. I told the tenants of the place what medicines were requisite; but the exertion of going one day's journey, even in this emergency, seemed quite beyond their nature. The mother said she had no one to send; and when I pointed out a servant, replied, he could not be spared from household affairs; so that in all probability the unfortunate sufferer died from the want of a little medicine: and thus, I am credibly informed, nearly one-

third of the lower class are prematurely lost for actual want of medical aid, and medicines.

I bathed, which much refreshed me; and at four o'clock followed the baggage, which had passed, and at half-past five overtook them, when we again crossed the river Bogotá, the mules swimming, whilst we and the baggage passed over in a canoe.

The method of driving the mules over the river is very peculiar. On arriving at the ford there were nearly a hundred assembled; these are placed as close together as possible, and driven into the water by the blows, gestures, and shouts of the *peons*, several of whom swim over by their sides, dashing the water about with great vehemence, and vociferating loudly, to urge the mules to swim as fast as possible, that they may not be carried too far down the river,

which is rapid and deep. On reaching the opposite bank they are assembled, and each person collects his own mules. During this, the muleteers were engaged some in playing with flat stones, a game similar to our quoits; others, having formed temporary *ranchas* beneath the trees, were making fires for cooking their food; some were wrestling, jumping, or running; others lay listlessly in the shade until their turn for crossing the river should arrive: all this rendered the ford a scene of much interest and life, forming a strong contrast to the many solitary resting-places in which I had stopped whilst on my journey.

We proceeded to Piñon, a *hacienda* belonging to Augustin Toledo, where we passed the night, being very hospitably received by the major-domo, in the absence of his master. He was a native of Neyva, and did not appear at all to like this part of the

world; he extolled his own province to the skies, so that I find it is not my good countrymen the Scotch, alone, who deem their own land the best and fairest on the face of the earth. He informed me that the *Caucho*-tree grows in abundance in and about Pinon; the milk, which is white, and will burn, is used for sealing letters. He showed me some variegated wood, of very fine grain, but having too much white in it to make it valuable in Europe. I saw some wax from wasps' nests, and also some of their honey, which was very palatable. I bought two tapers of him made of this wax, weighing a pound each, for a dollar.

On the 15th, rose at daylight. At six the thermometer at 73°. The mules, as usual, delayed until eight o'clock. When all was arranged for setting forward, I went to take leave of the major-domo, but found he had shut himself up in his room, and

I could not gain access to him: I enquired the cause, and learnt that this was a common freak of his,—in fact, that my friend was at times a little crazy.

At eleven the heat became so intensely oppressive, that we were compelled to halt at a cottage; and I lounged in my hammock during the rest of the day, it being impossible to proceed along the sandy road, under the broiling sun, without the immediate risk of a *coup de soleil*. At five, mounted and pushed on for the river Tusagasega, on the banks of which are several cottages, where poultry and eggs are to be procured. I hung some of the former at my saddle-bow; and on crossing the river, which was so deep as to lift my mule occasionally off her feet, the unfortunate turkey and chickens were very nearly drowned. The evening now closed in, and a brilliant moon illuminated the depth of the thickly-wooded forest, through which

our road lay, the only sound audible being the regular trampling of the mules. At a space where the road widened, on one side lay a group of muleteers, some sleeping, others watching their mules, which were fastened two or three together, and surrounded by their *cargos* piled up with a *toldo* on the top for shelter. We did not stop here, but went on to the cottage called Cangreco, where I supped in the open air by moonlight,—a pleasure which none can appreciate so highly as those who have been travelling during the day over a hot, sandy soil, and beneath the influence of a scorching sun, without a breath of air stirring, and the thermometer at 90° in the shade.

Dec. 16th. Left Cangreco at half-past seven, and arrived at a small village called Santa Rosa: at noon, thermometer 85°. The clergyman of the place supplied me with a

room and the necessary cooking utensils. At five, proceeded to Los Losanos de La Honda, to sleep. I was conducted to a sort of shed, surrounded by a wall, about breast-high, from which arose pillars to support the roof, leaving the sides open. The day had been oppressively hot; but here a breeze so chilling sprung up, that I was obliged to have recourse to two blankets for covering,—a strong proof of the extreme variation of temperature in this climate.

Dec. 17th. Had a most refreshing bath in a neighbouring brook, and afterwards mounting my mule, set forward in advance of the baggage. At eight o'clock arrived at the passage of the Magdalena, where, after shouting loudly for some time, the passage-canoe crossed over to me, in which I embarked; the mules partly wading, partly swimming, at the side.

From the river, Purification is seen prettily situated on a rising ground, on the left bank. It is an ancient town, and called, by way of distinction, *La Villa* (the town). Its chief trade is dried beef, great quantities of cattle being fed on the plains. From the landing-place to the town is not ten minutes' ride. On reaching the top of the ascent on which it is placed, I had a commanding and pleasing view of the extensive plain below:—savannahs, with cattle grazing; the river Magdalena winding gracefully along; and the whole bounded by a circle of lofty mountains, clothed to the summit with trees and brushwood.

I proceeded to the head Alcálde, a very civil man, who immediately found me a house; but learning that the Señor Domingo Caycedo, president of the House of Representatives, who had a house here, had left it in the morning for his estates at Saldânea,

I determined on following him thither. Accordingly, having first requested the Alcálde to take my baggage into his care, I procured a guide and fresh horses, and set out for the *hacienda* of my friend, which is about three or four leagues distance from Purification; and, on reaching his residence, was most hospitably received. He conducted me over his estate, which is very extensive, and chiefly adapted for rearing cattle. I declined the proffer of a bed at his house, but appointed the following morning for going with him to inspect the neighbouring mines. At seven, P. M., I returned to Purification, and found my baggage arrived, under the charge of a *peon*, the Caporal himself not appearing, and the *peon* told me he did not know what had become of him. Now the fact was, I had a very fine dog, of an excellent breed for hunting, to which this fellow had evidently taken a great liking, caressing him much on the

road; and with him he had endeavoured to make off. I told the *peon* that, until my dog was forthcoming, I should detain two of the best mules in my stable; which I instantly ordered to be done, as they were standing in the court-yard. The *peon* went to the Caporal, who was concealed in the town; and, on telling him what I had done, he immediately posted off to the Alcálde, and complained of the detention of his mules. The Alcálde enquiring the reason, the fellow said, that it was on account of a dog which had been left with him, but which had run away into the woods, foaming at the mouth very terribly. The magistrate, divining the truth from the well-known roguery of these men, told him, that unless he produced the dog, I was justified in detaining his mules. This had the desired effect; and the following morning, the Caporal appeared at my house with the dog. In consequence of

the established and improper custom of paying this class of men beforehand, there is no possibility of checking their ill conduct, of punishing them, or enforcing the due performance of their engagement; for, with the money in hand, they laugh at all remonstrance, and in no case complete their undertaking according to stipulation. Until this system is taken up, and amended by the Legislature, these people will continue to impose and plunder.

On the morning of the 18th, proceeded to Saldánea; found the roads nearly impassable, from the quantity of rain that had fallen during the night. Breakfasted with Señor Caycedo, whom I interrogated concerning the reported richness of the rivers Saldánea and Coyama, in gold. On this subject he knew but little; but sent for three of the gold-washers, who came furnished with *batéas*, a species of wooden bowl, of

light, fine-grained wood, six feet in circumference, four and a half inches deep in the centre, with handles at the sides; into these the earth, &c., in which the gold is expected to be found, is thrown, and, being immersed in the water to a level with the brim of the *batéa*, is turned round quickly and dexterously; the stones are taken out, and then the earth is washed away, until nothing but the grains of gold (if any) are left remaining.

I proceeded with these men to the bed of the river Saldánea, but procured only a few grains of gold. Observing that they only scraped off about five or six inches of the surface, I went to the old and dry bed of a river, the course of which had been diverted by the falling in of an embankment, and dug down five or six feet, but with no better success. These *peons* informed me, that the greatest quantity of gold was obtained from

particular spots near the adjacent plains, and the hills about Coyama. I then returned to my friend Don Caycedo; and after dinner we fell into conversation on all kinds of subjects, relative to the revenues, political economy, &c., of the republic; and I found my host a very sensible, liberal-minded man. He told me that virgin silver, and very rich copper, had been found, as well as gold, in the neighbouring district. This led us to the subject of the prohibition of exporting gold in dust, silver in bars, and platina in any shape; when he informed me of his intention of proposing a bill to the Congress, to permit the exportation of these metals, subject to a certain duty; which would be infinitely more productive to the government than the means at present adopted, and would entirely do away with the smuggling, which is carried on to a great extent. He also mentioned to me, that, in consequence of the great scarcity of water in this and

the neighbouring districts, the cattle were obliged to be driven to the river at a considerable and inconvenient distance. On my telling him the process and method of boring for water, he said, he was convinced that boring apparatus, properly made and well conducted, if sent out here, would be a most profitable speculation, and amply repay, as the landed proprietors would all be happy to benefit their fields and cattle by this means.

On the morning of the 19th, I went, accompanied by the junior Alcálde, and several fishermen, to the river Chinche, in which, I was informed, pearls were to be obtained. I had several hundred oysters and scallops opened; but found only two or three small, bad-coloured, ill-shaped pearls. The oysters were of a greenish hue on the outside shell, the inside of a deep blue; the scallops, outside brown, the inside of a fine

pearl colour. Being convinced that any further search was useless, I returned to the "Villa," and amused myself, during the afternoon, by shooting wild ducks and snipes, which abound in the neighbouring lagoons.

20th. Weather very sultry; thermometer at noon, 87°. At home all day, expecting Don Caycedo; who, however, did not keep his appointment. In the evening, visited the church, which is neat and plain,—a good building for the place, and free from the usual adornments. On leaving the church, I walked up and down the plaza, as being the coolest spot for exercise. At half-past six I observed approaching about eighty boys, two and two, bearing, on the average, each three candles, set in frames of various construction, adorned with evergreens; and a large portion of the population attending. They proceeded to the church, chaunting the *Rosario;* and on entering, ranged them-

selves on each side of the chancel, where, kneeling down, the curate commenced the evening service to the Virgin, which had a most pleasing effect, as he had a fine voice, and the responses were powerful and full. When the mass was concluded, the boys went out of the church, in the same manner as they entered; the people following, and the Virgin Mary, gaily adorned, and robed, borne by eight men; then came the Host, carried in front of the curate, and the whole procession was brought up by the musicians of the place. In this manner they paraded the principal streets, chaunting the *Rosario;* and then depositing the Virgin Mary in the church, extinguished the candles, and separated. This ceremony takes place nightly, about a week before Christmas; the expenses of candles, mass, musicians, &c. being defrayed by the principal inhabitants, who each have their night, and invite their friends.

Dec. 21st. At ten o'clock saw Señor Caycedo, and procured from him several introductory letters, to enable me to view the mines of the surrounding district. At two o'clock I started, with my guide, who was particularly loquacious, and whom I soon found to be quite drunk, presuming, I suppose, on the dollar which I had advanced to him; however, as he was obliged to swim a river which impeded our way, to find the shallows for the mules to pass, he was tolerably sobered when we reached the other side of the ford.

We crossed the river Saldánea thrice, and after traversing an uninteresting tract of country, arrived at Coyamo about nine in the evening. On presenting a letter of introduction to the curate, I was very kindly received. I hung my hammock in the room, and after a slight supper retired to rest.

Dec. 22d. About four o'clock I was awakened from my sleep by notes of music; the moon was most splendidly brilliant, and shining into my room; the night was tranquil, and I instantly called to mind the many similar scenes described in the novels, of monasteries, monks, strains of music, &c. I found that the curate and his assistants were chaunting the early Matins in the church, which was close to his dwelling. The effect was singularly pleasing, and the novelty added not a little to the charm of the whole. After the service the curate returned to his room. These Matins are frequently sung during the week previous to Christmas.

I rose at daybreak, and at half-past six was joined by the curate. We entered into a long discussion on the nature and situation of the gold-mines; amongst others he mentioned those of Apone, as the most

productive. He informed me that all the hills about Coyamo abound more or less in gold.

Whilst the Spaniards were masters, they levied a yearly tribute on eight hundred Indians of this district. In the last washing, which was performed by the majority of these Indians, they procured eighty-five pounds weight of gold in eight days, of which twenty-five pounds were paid as the tribute exacted, and the remaining sixty pounds were their own. The washing takes place during the wet season only, as at other periods they have not water sufficient for this purpose. The places of washing which are most productive, the Indians will not disclose, even to the curate, who assured me that he could not extract it from them at the very confessional.

After breakfast I set out for Apone, having to cross the river Coyamo in a canoe,

swimming the mules by our side; we then travelled over a mountainous country, barren and arid in the extreme, with an intense sun scorching us beyond measure, and parching the soil and scanty herbage to excess. We passed several old *washings* of the Indians, which I dismounted to examine.

These are generally on the declivity of a hill, where they erect a temporary dam of stones and clay, about seven or eight inches above the surface, and about three feet in length; they form a narrow conduit or channel to this from the nearest mountain torrent, to convey the water to the dam. Having discovered, by the nature of the soil, that gold may be found, they begin from the top of the eminence to scrape the earth with an instrument for the purpose. They go down the hill gradually, and work the earth as they go, driving the

settling downwards, where it stays; whilst the water, overflowing the top of the dam, carries away the greatest part of the loose and useless earth. They then have recourse to their *bateas*, and carefully wash the earth, &c., collected at the dam; and this being done with much dexterity and certainty, the residue is the metal sought for. The earth, where I principally remarked these washings, was of a deep red colour, and mixed with a quantity of round and oval stones of various dimensions.

At noon we reached a shady spot, and halted for some time. On remounting, my guide's hand was stung by a venomous reptile, which had crept into some grass that he had placed under his saddle: he immediately drew it forth, and cutting it open, anointed the bitten member with the entrails, and was soon quite well. He informed me, that if he had not done this, he would have

lost the use of his hand; and his tongue would have become black and paralyzed, so as to preclude the possibility of speech for twenty-four hours.

The road now lay through thickets apparently little frequented, until about six o'clock, when we reached the banks of the Saldánea once more, where I embarked in a canoe; two boys swimming the mules across, on which they were seated, divested of all clothing.

I soon after arrived at Apone, and went to the cottage of Filipe Ramairez, the owner of the mine, whom I had pictured to myself as a Colombian gentleman, but who proved to be a labouring man of colour. He received me very civilly; and on my reading the letter of introduction to him, (an office he could not perform for himself,) he did all in his power to accommodate me,

and served up the best supper his house afforded, to which I sat down with my worthy guide as a messmate, for here there was no distinction of persons. The conversation turning on his mines, the account he gave did not tally with the glowing description I had previously received My guide, rolling himself up in some skins in a corner, soon fell asleep; and, turning into my hammock, I followed his example, being well tired with my day's journey.

Dec. 23d. Rose at daylight, and visited the various mines, which consisted of excavations in the sides of the mountains. Into one of those which I entered, I proceeded, in nearly a horizontal direction, for a hundred yards, until I reached the part they were working. The excavation, arched over head, is about four feet broad, and frequently so low as to compel you to go on hands and knees. I exa-

mined the load in which the gold ore is found, and found it of a reddish, gravelly sand, mixed with large and small stones. This ran in a vein, over what the natives call *piédra* (stone), but what appeared to me to be a kind of very hard marl, of a grey colour; above the load, in some mines, was a brownish sand, and in others a dark slimy clay. These mines are worked in what they term the dry way, as they have first to extract the load, and then wash it. The natives consider the mines would be more valuable if water could be introduced into them by canals, (which is impossible, as there are none in the neighbourhood above the level,) and if they were open from the surface, as the labour would be less, and the expense of lighting the mine with candles, which consume rapidly, could be done away with. I extracted some of the load myself, which I washed at the mouth of the mine, and found some grains of very

fine gold. The mines, however, during the last year and a half, have proved very unproductive, not paying the expenses of working them; and which process, at the best time, never produced more than twenty or thirty pounds of gold per annum, from want of capital to work them properly; so that all the extravagant reports I had heard proved untrue, and I might have spared myself the trouble of visiting them.

I determined on returning immediately to Purification; but recollecting what I had suffered from heat on my way hither, I enquired if there were no other road for returning, than that by which I came. I was told the only other way was by going down the river on a *bálsa*, or raft, which I consequently ordered to be constructed. Sending my mule back by my guide, I took leave of my civil mulatto friend, who kindly

presented me, at parting, with a clean white bag, containing refreshments for the day; and I set out on my raft, which was made of poles of a very light wood, about six inches diameter, and from twenty-five to thirty feet long. About a dozen of these were lashed together with the tough tendrils of the woodbine, which in this country grows to the height of one hundred and twenty or one hundred and thirty feet, and is sufficiently strong for any similar purpose. The head of the raft, being more tightly bound than the hinder part, was narrower, whilst the stern spread like a fan; which method is found to answer best for the navigation of the river. In the centre of the raft, a platform, about six feet long, was raised for me to sit; and three sticks were put upright, to place my saddle on. The pilot stood in the forepart, and managed our navigation very skilfully with a paddle. The seat was well covered with plantain leaves,

on which I sat, and viewed the great dexterity with which the *peon* guided our frail raft through a dangerous rapid, formed by the junction of two streams, within a quarter of a mile from where I embarked. There were many perilous rocks and whirlpools, the latter of which frequently turned our *bálsa* completely round; but, by the excellent guidance of the pilot, we preserved our balance, and the raft went safely on in her intended course. At another spot we grounded among the shallows of a great rapid, and went bumping over the gravelly bottom, in a most disagreeable manner. As the river became deeper and narrower, and the descent not so rapid, I extended myself on the platform, with my hammock for my pillow, admiring the beautifully wooded banks, and the fine outline of the distant mountains, as we calmly glided down the river; taking the precaution of holding my umbrella over my head, to

screen myself from the piercing rays of the sun. I observed great quantities of the *guacharacas*, saw one alligator asleep, and a fine deer basking under the shady side of the bank. At four o'clock I arrived at Coyamo, having been five hours and a half in my descent. I went immediately to the curate, who did not appear much surprised at the result of my visit, although he had himself given me so flaming an account of the mines. He informed me of the death of General Nariño, whose decease he seemed greatly to lament; and narrated to me so many anecdotes of his vicissitudes and wonderful enterprizes, that I trust his life will be written by some able hand, competent to the task. This, from the perilous accidents by flood and field, the many hair-breadth escapes, and the ever changing variety of his course, must be a most interesting and romantic memoir.

About eight o'clock my guide arrived: I then took leave of the curate, and retired to rest.

Dec. 24th. Rose at four o'clock in the morning, and started with my guide at moonlight, which is by far the pleasantest time for travelling, and arrived at Purification to breakfast. I then waited on the Juez Politico, to request him to send an express to Señor Caycedo, to procure horses, which he had promised to furnish me with, whenever I wished to proceed to Ibague. During the day, I employed myself in writing this sketch of my proceedings, and preparing every thing for my departure. In the evening, attended high mass; and afterwards witnessed an imitation of bull-fighting, in the front of the church. A man, the tallest and most powerful in the place, was selected, on whom was fixed, and well secured, a large ox-hide, with enormous horns, hollowed

and filled with brimstone and other combustible materials; a pair of eyes, as large and round as a saucer, and a tail of most tremendous length. The moon had not risen, and the night was dark, when the burning composition in the horns was ignited, and the sport commenced. The fiery bull attacked all the assembled world; — such shrieking, such running, such scampering; all was confusion and uproar! Some bolder than others faced the blazing bull, held up *roanas* before him, and shook flags in front of the flaming horns; some dexterously avoided the thrusts made at them; others, less fortunate, were falling beneath the force of the furious animal, who would frequently have set fire to his prostrate antagonist, but for the friendly interference of some companion, who would on such an occasion seize the bull by his convenient length of tail, and swing him round from his fallen foe, before he could satiate his revenge. This conti-

nued until the horns were consumed.—I then visited Don Luis, brother to Señor Caycedo, who informed me that a guide and horses had been sent for my use. I immediately returned home, and retired to rest, being determined to start by three in the morning on my journey.

At midnight a curious custom of the Roman Catholic church was performed, called the Cock Mass, in commemoration of the crowing of the cock which took place on Peter's denial of Christ. When the curate commences the service, the people imitate and mock his gesture, tone of voice, and manner of reading; make all kinds of noise —shouting, bawling, hooting, and imitating the crowing of the cock, with every possible exertion of lungs; the whole forming an exhibition most deafening to the ear, and perfectly ridiculous to the eye. There is another church service, quite as ludicrous

and preposterous, on the day of celebrating the Rending of the Veil of the Temple, when our Saviour gave up the ghost. The people have large hammers, with which they beat the benches, and have sheets of tin, &c. which they shake, to imitate the noise of thunder as nearly as possible. An English colonel, in the republican service, on this occasion thought he could add to the scene, by imitating the English foxhunter's tallyho, which he did with so much strength and clearness of lungs, as quite to exceed any noise of other persons; and gained by it so much of the curate's good will, who imagined that his religion was in proportion to the vehemence of his utterance, that after the service he came to him, and seizing his hand, thanked him most cordially for his kind addition to the devotion of the night.

Dec. 25th, Christmas-day. I had hoped, when I first started, to have passed this day

with my own family in England, and to have enjoyed that comfort and pleasure which is so little known in any other country, except my own, where on this day families are in the habit of meeting, and rallying around them all the best of relations, and the kindest of friends. I was, however, compelled to remain where I was, with even the uncertainty of not knowing if I should pass that day twelvemonth with them. Such is human life, uncertain as the wind! but I had Hope for my comforter: I trusted, though the sea might divide us, yet that I was not forgotten by my family and friends; and that I should be restored to them and to happiness; and consoled myself with the reflection that I was, to the extent of my abilities, performing my duty to my country as a man, and as a citizen, by endeavouring to secure and advance her interest, at the same time that I was honourably endeavouring to acquire a fortune for myself by

my exertions. This migratory life, although attended with hardship, is not destitute of pleasure. It affords great opportunities for scrutinizing and reading the book of man, and of laying up a large store of practical knowledge for old age.

At three o'clock A. M., I started for Ibague, which I hoped to reach by five in the evening. My guide had been dancing and drinking all night, so much so, that he could scarcely sit his horse. He was at first very talkative, making a great merit of having quitted the feast and his friends; he praised his country, and his native town, abusing all others as not comparable to them; but finding that I did not encourage his questions, he ceased, and fell asleep, which I discovered by his horse deviating considerably from the pathway. I shook him until I awoke him, and kept him aroused by perpetual questions, until I reached a small

village, about seven o'clock. Here I determined to rest the horses, and went to the house of the curate, who kindly welcomed me, and gave me breakfast. My guide laid himself down to sleep in the veranda, and reposed until nine, when I aroused him; and saddling the horses, we proceeded over the plains, at a round pace, until mid-day, when the burning rays of the meridian sun compelled us to stop at a cottage, where I obtained a fowl, stewed in rice, for my dinner; after which I slept in my hammock for a couple of hours. At half-past two once more on the road, which was quite a plain, uniform savannah, with a few dwarf trees and brushwood scattered here and there. At four arrived at the Quello, a rapid, strong river, where travellers are sometimes detained for days, until it is sufficiently shallow to pass, which fortunately was now the case. When on the point of fording the river, a curious incident occurred; I

observed a small hawk, flying with a branch of a tree in his mouth, which he dropped on the bank near me, and commenced eating. I immediately rode up to see what he was devouring, and discovered that it was a wasps' nest, formed in the forked part of a small branch of a tree: the hawk had, by constant pecking, broken the branch with his beak, and had then flown with his prey to the river, where he had well ducked them, for the poor wasps appeared half drowned; and then, as they commenced crawling out of their cells, the hawk ate them one by one.

With considerable danger of the horses falling, or being carried down the current, we at last reached the opposite bank, and commenced winding up a steep mountain, where deer darted across our path.

Before we reached the summit night closed in. Shortly after, on arriving at a cot-

tage, and enquiring the distance to Ibague, I found it to be yet six leagues, which determined me on stopping for the night, as our horses were so fatigued as scarcely to be able to move. I dismounted, hung my hammock in the cottage, and gave the old man who lived there some money to procure my supper, which he ordered his daughter to prepare. In the mean time I produced some *aguadiente*, a glass of which I gave mine host: this opened his heart, and I overheard him giving a private order, that the best supper they could procure was to be served up. Accordingly, I had shortly after fried salt-beef and plantains, eggs and fat pork, cooked in the same manner, to which chocolate was added; these appeased the cravings of nature, and shortly afterwards I fell soundly asleep in my hammock.

Dec. 26th. Started with my guide at half-past four, by moonlight, and reached

Ibague at eight o'clock to breakfast, at the house of Filipe Losano, to whom I had letters of introduction. I fell into conversation with my host, who mentioned various mines of gold, silver, and vermilion, in the surrounding districts, and told me of three in the immediate vicinity, which had not been worked for the last twelve years; and on expressing my desire to visit them, he kindly procured me two men as guides, who, having provided themselves with a necessary number of candles for our purpose, conducted me to the nearest mine, which was in a mountain, about half a mile from the town. This mountain was excessively steep, and the thermometer being at 80°, the fatigue and toil of ascending was very great. Having arrived on the level of the mine, we commenced cutting our way to the mouth through bushes and underwood, which obstructed our path. On reaching the spot, we lighted our candles and entered; but

found a difficulty in advancing, in consequence of the vast accumulation of manure, from multitudes of bats, who had taken up their abode in the cave, since its desertion by man. The noise they made in the interior resounded like thunder. We soon encountered some of them, who flitting past us, extinguished two of our three candles, which made us more cautious in guarding our light; and by throwing stones before us as we advanced, we succeeded in expelling them. On reaching the load, at the extremity of the mine, I found it, on examination, to consist of white marble, containing apparently a little silver, but in very small quantities, and no signs of gold whatever. On quitting this cave we clambered over the mountain to another. On gaining the summit, we encountered a piercing cold air, which much affected my chest, as I had no means of wrapping myself up, being only provided (in conformity with the advice of

my guides) with a shirt and pair of trowsers, in consequence of the intense heat, and labour in ascending the mountain.

On entering the second cave, I found the load running at an angle of about twenty-five from the perpendicular; it was nearly two feet thick, and consisted of soft red earth; from which, my guide informed me, that he himself had obtained a good deal of gold, by washing. I then determined to prove the truth of this, by returning the following morning with some washers. The third cave was nearly similar to this. After my examination I returned to the town very much fatigued with my day's work.

I proposed to my guide that he should attend with the washers, and try the mine, the next morning; this, to my surprise, he declined, but promised to send me the necessary workmen.

On the 27th I started for the mine with one *peon*, to excavate, furnished with the necessary implements; two to load leathern bags containing about sixty pounds weight each, and carry them to a neighbouring stream to be washed by two others with their *batéas*. We soon arrived at the spot and commenced operations; but not one grain of gold could we procure from the load, which accounted for the refusal of my friend, the guide, to accompany us.

Dec. 28th. Sunday. Finding, on enquiry, that I was not likely to meet with more success in my researches for mines in this part of the country, or at best, only getting vague and indefinite information on this subject, I resolved on undertaking the arduous journey from Ibague to Cartago, across the first grand chain of the Cordilleras of the Andes, in order to visit the valley of the Cauca, so justly celebrated

for the richness of its vegetable and mineral kingdom. To enable me to effect this, I applied to my friend Filipe Losano, for assistance to procure the necessary *peons*, mules, &c., and being market-day, I accompanied the wife of my friend thither, to purchase the provisions required for my journey, consisting of dried beef, a preparation of pork called *tocino*, corned fowls, pork-sausages, eggs, chocolate, butter, rice, and hard biscuits; some *aguadiente*, potatoes, and onions, completed the whole.

The market did not seem very good, but the lady informed me that the necessaries of life are generally supplied in abundance, and at a reasonable rate. I then walked about the town with the Alcálde Losano. It has one principal square, two others not yet finished, and a tolerably good-looking church. The population between two and three thousand. A noise of billiards attract-

ed my attention, and I entered the house, where I saw two young men engaged in a game quite new to me, called Trúco. This is played with large wooden balls, twice the size of a common billiard-ball, and a very heavy cue. The table is of the common size; it has a horseshoe-shaped piece of iron, just large enough to admit a ball, placed where the spot is for the red ball in a common game, and in the line of the baulk, a straight piece of iron, like a large pin. The game is played like our four-ball game, with the difference that if you strike the pin after hitting the adversary's ball, you score two, and if, in like manner, you send either of the red balls through the half circle, or drive the adversary's ball through, you score three. Each party strikes alternately, and does not, as in common billiards, repeat the stroke every time he scores. There is, however, not half the science of the usual game, much depending on chance.

On my return I found the young men of the place engaged in the *plaza* in cock-fighting, in which cruel amusement all classes seem to take great delight. It is the most favourite diversion of the country. The cocks are armed with a long blade, like that of a penknife, with an excessively sharp edge and pointed, about the length of a finger; this fastens into a socket, which is affixed to the heel of the bird, who, thus equipped, is most formidable; and whichever of the two combatants gives the adversary the first severe blow generally decides the battle, as the wounded cock is in most cases killed by one thrust. I was very much inclined to give one of the young men a sound drubbing. His cock, which had lost, was expiring at his feet; he took the poor bird in his hand, and tore it to pieces, beating, ill-using, and abusing it the whole time, for not having gained the victory.

On my return to the Alcálde's house, I found several of his friends had come to pay him a visit. The females were seated on cushions laid on the ground, in the door-way, and the men lolling in chairs, leaning against the walls of the house and the veranda. The whole party, male and female, old and young, were smoking. This custom is universal, and added to the quantities of sweetmeats, of which all are fond, you seldom see a good set of teeth, as they are never cleaned, and being neglected, become discoloured, black, and decayed. It is a most unpleasant addition to these smoking-parties, to have every one near you constantly spitting about the apartment. The conversation was not very interesting, turning principally on their Christmas-feasts, which were about to commence. In the evening it rained, but this did not prevent our going to a *tertulià*, but such a *tertulià*! a barn dance in England is superior; not

a good looking woman in the room; and the dancing, which was a fandango of four, was horrible. I soon made my escape, leaving my friends, who remained until nearly midnight.

Monday, Dec. 29th. This being the day fixed to commence the feasts of Ibague, at noon, about twenty miserable-looking bulls were driven into the *plaza* (which had been inclosed by bamboo poles), by about fifty horsemen, shouting and bawling with might and main. Six bulls were selected and driven into a pent-house, erected for this purpose; the others were released and sent out of the *plaza*. Every one then retired to dinner. At three, P. M., the diversion (as they term it) commenced. One of the miserable animals was turned out, but had scarcely courage or strength to attack the horsemen; who, armed with a long spear, with a triangular barb at the end, pursued

the bull, and tormented it by thrusting the lance against its side, or, if the poor brute did turn and run at them, receiving the charge at the point of their weapon, which soon made him retreat. When one bull had been sufficiently teazed, another was brought out to supply the place. The spectators were most in peril, for some, bold enough to enter the enclosure, had frequently enough to do to avoid the fury of the animal; which ran wildly about, sometimes reaching the veranda in which we were, and then we had a vast hurry and confusion to get out of the way into the house before the bull could reach us: twice he dashed his horns against the door the moment we had closed it, and one lad, who could not get into the house in time, was compelled to play at hide and seek with him round the pillars of the veranda, until one of the horsemen rode up and diverted the animal's attention.

Early this morning, the guide and *peons* who were to attend me, received half their hire, in order to enable them to lay in provisions for their journey. I observed my friend the Alcálde was extremely particular in selecting my guide and *peons*, rejecting many before he pitched on those which pleased him. On enquiring into this, he gave me the following particulars:—If the government have any need of a body of these men to carry provisions, conduct soldiers, &c. over the mountains, they despatch a private letter to the Juez Politico about three weeks before, stating the number of men they shall require. This officer immediately sends for the requisite number, and having collected them, shuts them all up in prison until they are wanted; there they have but scanty fare and no pay. On the day they are needed, they are put under the charge of a body of soldiers, and

are obliged to perform the orders of government. For this they have no remuneration, and but barely food enough for actual subsistence. They are torn from their families for a period of five or six weeks at a time, and are unable to contribute to their support and maintenance. This arbitrary measure is entirely unfitting the so much boasted liberty of the country, and at variance with every principle of the freedom of a republic. The Alcálde added, that in consequence of these coercive steps, the men did all in their power to recompense themselves, by every trick and roguery they could practise on travellers; and that he, therefore, was desirous that I should have men of the best reputation. I wrote immediately to my friend Señor Paris concerning this abuse of the liberty of these men, and begged him to propose to the Congress some means of ameliorating their circumstances, and correcting the present ill-devised, and

worse conducted, method of obtaining their services for the government.

The Alcálde submitted to my inspection a plan for growing corn in the vicinity of Ibague. He had obtained the names of many of the most respectable families in the neighbouring districts. He divided it into fifteen shares, of two hundred dollars each, one of which I took, suggesting some alterations and improvements, which he adopted. He proposed only to sow a part of the plain, in the first instance; having, however, secured the option of having the whole. He had found from experiments that the soil was well calculated for agriculture, and had produced excellent grain. About one hundred and thirty years since, these plains were all corn-lands, and the superiority of their produce such as to incur the jealousy of the Viceroy of the kingdom of New Grenada;

who finding that the corn was superior, and preferred to that of his own kingdom, sent a mandate for the whole to be destroyed, and the mills dismantled. I saw many of the mill-stones lying about the plain; and the very materials with which Señor Losano has built his two new mills are from the ruins of the old ones, destroyed by the Spanish tyrant's despotic command!

Dec. 30th. About eight o'clock the guide and *peons* made their appearance with two mules, one for me to ride, the other to convey part of the provisions, the *peons* carrying the bed and baggage. The general load of a *peon* is from seventy-five pounds to a hundred weight, though some have been known to carry as much as one hundred and seventy-five pounds. The machine on which they carry their load is made of split bamboo, about three feet in length, with hori-

zontal pieces at the lower end; on this they place their burthen, and then fasten it with straps, about three inches broad, made of the tough, fibrous bark of a tree, soaked to make it sufficiently pliable; two of these cross the load, and passing over the shoulders of the *peon*, on whose back the machine is placed, they cross his breast like a soldier's belts, and are fastened at the sides, leaving his arms quite at liberty: a piece of the same bark as the straps passes over his forehead, and is secured to the top of the bamboo behind; this steadies and secures the whole. One pad of linen is placed between the *silla de cargo*, (or chair,) as it is called, and the loins; and another between the straps and the head, to prevent the chafing of these parts. In this manner they journey on, never stumbling, and seldom halting, climbing up the mountains, and sometimes running, when the ground will admit. They are entirely naked, except a

handkerchief round the middle. These men are of a mixed race, between the Indian and the original Spanish settlers; they are for the most part fine athletic fellows, with good features, and well limbed; their complexion is dark, and hair the same.

Most travellers take with them a *silléro*, who carries a chair similar to the machine above mentioned, except that it has a rest for the arms, and a swinging step for the feet. Placed on this, the traveller is carried on the *peon's* back. I was advised by the Alcálde to take a mule in preference, as I should not be obliged to stop so frequently to rest the *peon*. Each *peon*, except the *sillero*, takes his own provision, placed on the top of his load, and, in addition, twenty or thirty couple of leaves of the *beau-tree*, used for covering the *rancha*, which it is necessary to form every evening, to sleep in, as there are but few habitations on the moun-

tains. These leaves, which grow on a shrub something like the plantain-tree, are from eighteen inches to two feet long, and about a foot broad; they are much more pliable than the plantain-leaf, and do not easily tear.

CHAPTER XVI.

PASSAGE OF THE CORDILLERA OF THE ANDES, CALLED QUINDIO, FROM IBAGUE TO CARTAGO—LA BALSA—CARTAGO—MINES.

EVERY thing being prepared, I bade adieu to my kind host and family, and mounting my mule, at ten o'clock, set forward on my formidable undertaking. Almost immediately on leaving Ibague we commenced ascending a mountain, which overlooked the town to the south-west. I found the road particularly bad, being very steep, and so slippery, that the mules could scarcely keep their feet. To add to my comfort, on reaching a narrow pass, where the mountain rose perpendicularly on one side, and a tremendous precipice on the other, the owner of the mules, who had accompanied me thus far, exclaimed, "Ah! sir, here I lost a valuable mule the other day; his

foot slipped on this very spot, and falling down the precipice he broke his neck!" Fortunately for me, my mule shewed more sense, and carried me past in safety. The poor *cargeros* began to feel the fatigue of climbing the mountains, being frequently obliged to rest themselves; but they said they should do better the next day, as the first day was always most trying to them. On either side of the road I saw a number of red-haired monkeys, leaping from tree to tree, who scrutinized us closely, but appeared very harmless. About three o'clock, I observed a white flag on a projecting mount at some distance, and on arriving there, found it to be erected at the usual resting place for the night, called *La Palmilla*, where I found Lieutenant Ortegas encamped, who had hoisted a white sheet, in order that his resting-place might be seen from the town. He came from under his *rancha* to receive me, and welcomed me to his habitation. He had left the town the preceding day, charged with despatches from the government for Bolivar; but two of his *peons* having fallen ill, he had been compelled to halt, and despatch a third in order to procure two others to supply their

places. I believe the fact was, that the two *peons* shammed sick, in order to avoid the compulsory service of the government,—that in reality the state loses more by this ill-judged parsimony, in not giving these men proper pay, than if they rewarded them in the same proportion as individuals do.

In company with Lieutenant Ortegas was a young lad, about fifteen years of age, named Malarino, who had lately lost his father, and become heir to considerable property. He was on his way from Bogotá, where he had been studying in the college, to visit his mother, who lived at *Caly*, one of the chief towns in the valley of the *Cauca*. I found him a shrewd boy, but very forward,—considered himself quite the man, and his education completed. The loss of his father at so early an age was very much to be regretted, as he would have kept him in proper subjection, and, as the lad had good abilities, might possibly have made a shining character of him; which, I now fear, will not be the case, as he appeared to have a great inclination for cock-fighting and gambling, instead of

having any desire to improve his mind by reading and study.

My *peons* immediately commenced the erection of my *rancha;* which was formed by driving two posts into the earth, about four feet high, and six feet apart, for the front of the tent; and the same, about twelve feet behind these, for the other extremity. Between these two short poles was, at each end, a high one, about sixteen feet in length: a pole was laid horizontally from the short poles in front to those behind, and another of the same length from the two long ones right in the centre; from this to the lower pole, light rafters of wood were lashed together by the tendrils of the woodbine; on these the leaves of the *beau-tree* were laid one over the other, like feathers in a bird's wing,—a notch being cut in the stalk to fix them to the woodbine, and they formed a shelter impervious to the rain. In the interim, my servant prepared the dinner, for which the mountain air had given me a good appetite. From the flag-staff, at sunset, I had a beautiful view of the town of Ibague, which appeared close at my feet, although I had

been engaged five hours in ascending the mountain, and one in quitting the city. It seemed quite on the base of the mountain, and the white houses, with their red-tiled roofs, had a very picturesque appearance.

We all took chocolate together, and made ourselves perfectly happy: we retired to rest, however, at an early hour, intending to start betimes in the morning.

Dec. 31st. Rose at daylight, having slept well and perfectly dry, although much rain had fallen during the night. My servant prepared breakfast, whilst the *peons* rolled up the *beau-leaves* to serve for the rest of the journey. At six, A. M., the thermometer 60°; with considerable mist. At half-past seven mounted my mule, leaving the frame of my tent standing. I enquired the reason there were none other but our own, as so many other passengers besides ourselves must pass that way. I was informed that they are destroyed by the muleteers for firing, when passing with their *cargos*, they being too lazy to cut firewood; thus obliging each traveller to lose at least two hours in erecting his *rancha*.

Malariño mounted his chair, when we took

leave of our friend, Ortegas, as no *peons* had arrived for him. He promised to do all in his power to overtake us.

As we ascended, I soon found the inconvenience of a mule, and the advantage of the *sillero*, as Malarino went on before me extremely well and quite dry; whilst I was left behind, and in a few minutes had my feet wet, my mule being up to the girths in mud, and in momentary danger of stumbling or sticking fast in the mire.

The road was originally formed by the old Spaniards, about eight feet broad, with trees laid equally together and well secured, affording a very good passage; but, in consequence of neglect, the mountain-torrents have torn away the wood, which has not been repaired, and it has become in parts so bad and worn, that the present road is from twenty to thirty feet below the original level, with perpendicular sides, and so narrow, that I was frequently compelled to draw my feet from the stirrups, and lay them close to the ears of the mule, to prevent my knees being crushed by the banks on both sides: the muleteer being obliged to go in advance of the laden mule

to cut the banks with a kind of straight hoe, in order to make room for the animal to pass, although the baggage was laid as much on the back as possible. I cannot at all divine why my friend Losano advised me to use mules in crossing the mountain, except that, from a remnant of the old Spanish inertitude, he never took the trouble of informing himself of the best means of travelling here, although it must have been a subject of constant conversation with many people whom he was in the daily habit of meeting.

"About one o'clock we were joined by Señor Ortegas, his *peons* having arrived soon after we had left him. At this time the road became so bad, that I was forced to dismount and proceed on foot; the herbage and vegetation had here grown so luxuriantly, as in many places to cover the banks above, like a canopy over our heads, rendering it nearly dark.

"We arrived at two o'clock at a hut called *La Tapia*, where the wood is a little cleared away; from this point there is an extensive view of mountains, covered with verdure to the summit; but mountain scenery does not

look so well, when embosomed in mountains, as when viewed from a height commanding the whole extent beneath, or, as seen from the sea, when at some considerable distance from the land.

Having rested a short time at *La Tapia*, we proceeded to *El Moral*, a small hut, with a shed outside for travellers to sleep in: here we passed the night.

Jan. 1st, 1824. New-Year's-day. Rose at half-past four, and breakfasted at daylight. At six o'clock, thermometer 62°. One of my *peons* missing; learnt that he had fallen sick at *La Tapia;* despatched another, whom I hired at this hut, to bring my baggage on, and assist the other. Found the road better than yesterday, but very mountainous. Came to a stream of boiling water, which gushed out of a small aperture in the mountain; it was tasteless, but the earth about the mouth, which was soft and of a whitish colour, had a saline taste.

Shortly after passing this stream, we arrived at an abrupt precipice, which went perpendicularly down, about fifteen hundred feet, to a mountain-torrent below. Here Lieutenant

Ortegas, with whom I grew better acquainted, and found an amiable, diffident, and well-informed young man, narrated to me the following anecdote of the cruelty, and just punishment, of a Spanish officer. This inhuman wretch, having fastened on an immense pair of mule spurs, was incessantly darting the rowels into the bare flesh of the poor tortured *sillero*, who, in vain, remonstrated with his persecutor, and assured him that he could not quicken his pace. Complaint only produced additional aggression, and the officer plied his spurs the more, in proportion to the murmurs of the *sillero*. At last the man, roused to the highest pitch of infuriated excitement and resentment, from the relentless attacks of the officer, on reaching this spot, jerked him from his chair into the immense depth of the torrent below, where he was killed, and his body could not be recovered. The *sillero* dashed off at full speed, and, escaping into the mountain, was never after heard of.

We now crossed the river *San Juan*, and arrived at a shed called *El Tambo de Toche*, where we halted for the night. Here Ortegas and I joined dinners, Malariño messing alone. I

found my young friend very sentimental and home-sick, as he had only just quitted his domestic circle, to which he was much attached. Our fare was not particularly sumptuous: he made some soup from pork-sausages, salt-beef, and the *aracatcha* root; and I supplied a salted fowl, cooked in rice, which ate like tough leather, having neither savour nor flavour. Our chief comfort was a cup of good chocolate and some biscuit. I now found myself deprived of any chance of obtaining punch, as, through the carelessness of a *peon*, the calabash, which contained my spirits, was split, and the liquor had leaked out. We did not drink intemperately, as water was our only beverage; and we did not admire Doctor Sangrado's prescription sufficiently to partake too copiously of it.

January 2d. At six, A. M., the thermometer at 55°. The road on this day terrible;—was compelled to walk great part of the way. In many places, I observed above my head the line of road formed by the Spaniards, as the beams were sticking out at the sides, which had been placed there to give solidity to the whole: in other parts, when mounted

on my mule, I found it necessary to have my hat in my hand, as otherwise the branches took it off my head; and, indeed, without keeping a good look out, one stood a chance of hanging suspended from a tree, like Absalom of old.

Passed through many *Contadéros*, open spaces cleared for the purpose, and so called from the custom of the head muleteer's standing there to count his mules as they travel along, lest any should be left in the wood, in which case they halt the troop, and return to search for the missing. At three we arrived at a *contadero* called *Calejo*, where we made our *ranchas* for the night. This spot is surrounded by palm-trees, to which parrots flock to roost in great abundance. Malarino shot several, which proved tolerably good eating. These palm-trees, by a certain process, yield a wine which the natives find very beneficial for dropsy. We made a large bon fire for the night, to keep off the tigers, which are said to infest the neighbourhood. The *peons* amused us by relating many stories of tigers carrying off dogs, &c. One of them asserted, that in going through a certain pass,

(which he pointed out to us the following day,) at a turn in the road, he suddenly came on a tiger, which was tearing away at a dead mule. The *peon* considered that retreat was useless, and therefore advanced with his drawn knife. The tiger approached, and on coming close to him made one spring, leaped quite over his head, and alighting on his feet, walked leisurely up the pass. By the appearance of the mule, the tiger must have feasted plentifully, which, perhaps, may account for his pacific proceeding. These tigers, which are small, have never been known to attack man; but will follow the *peons* for days in hopes that they may die, when they would devour them immediately. One evening, whilst searching for firewood, I found the bones of a poor fellow, who had most probably met with such an end.

Jan. 3d. At six, A. M., thermometer 52°. The road extremely bad. Encountered a thunder-storm, with hail. Passed great quantities of palm-trees, and came in sight of the *paramos*, or high mountains, covered with snow.

Jan. 4th. At six, A. M., thermometer 49°. Very ill during the night; attacked with

violent vomitings; scarcely able to proceed; nearly falling every instant from my mule; terrible pain in my loins and head, which the motion of the animal I rode increased. Passed the river *Quindio* three times, and halted about four o'clock at an open spot near the river, when I fortunately met with a very civil muleteer, with his tent ready made, under which I crept, and lay down. Scarcely had I entered, when it began to rain in torrents, with thunder and lightning. The storm lasted for two hours, during which time I slept soundly; and when my own tent was prepared for me, on awaking, I retired to it. Malariño kindly gave me half of a wild turkey he had just killed, of which I made soup, which did me much good.

Jan. 5th. Thermometer, at six, A. M., 66°. Passed a very bad night; horribly bad; mud up to the girths; my mule fell four times, but fortunately did me no hurt. Rose several wild turkeys, and saw an animal of a breed between a hare and a rabbit. Slept at the *contadero* called Novilla, a very damp place. Much annoyed by a turkey, screeching like a woman in distress, during the whole night.

Jan. 6th. Thermometer 62°. Roads scarcely passable. The declivities of many of the narrow passes were so perpendicular, that the mules, squatting on their hams, slid down twenty or thirty yards, without a possibility of stopping themselves, and with imminent peril to the rider: twice in going down such a steep the crupper of my saddle broke, and I slipped forward on my mule's neck, only keeping my seat by dint of squeezing my knees tight against the jaws of the poor animal I bestrode, which had no time or power for kicking.

I observed a great many trees called *Yarumo*, whose leaf has a white silvery appearance on the upper surface, and is green below; it has a peculiar aspect at a distance. At one o'clock, met a colonel of the Colombian service, who had come from Peru, via Guayaquil: he informed us that Bolivar had established two packets to run between *Callao* and the port of Buenaventura, so as to facilitate the communication between the capitals of Peru and Colombia. He informed us of a recently-detected conspiracy amongst some Peruvian officers, which had been frustrated; that Bolivar had an army of fifteen thousand men, and expected to commence operations in

March, when the roads would be passable; and that the Spaniards had retreated on Alta-Peru.

He complained of having already lost a *peon*, although only on his second day's journey, and giving us his name, requested us to complain to the proper authorities. — Arrived at *La Balsa*, a small village, and slept in a cottage very uncomfortably, as the mules and *peons* did not arrive with our bedding, being delayed by the badness of the roads.

Jan. 7th. I was here attacked by the same illness as in the mountains: a species of dysentery, with nauseous sickness; and suffered much from having an excellent appetite, but no power to digest what I ate. Being obliged to be my own doctor, I prescribed calomel and salts, which relieved me a little.

About eight the post arrived, with a light load on his back, of about fifty pounds weight; another *peon* in company with him: he said he had letters, and a good deal of gold and platina. I asked him if he were not afraid of being robbed? he said, such a thing had never been heard of; — a strong proof of the natural honesty of the natives, who only need to be well directed and governed. The post

goes from Cartago to Ibague in four days. I amused myself, during the day, in walking about a few scattered houses and their small domains; and must say, that though in the rudest state of cultivation, yet the little appearance of industry there was cheered me much, after the days I had passed without seeing any symptoms of the labour of man. The houses that compose this small village are built entirely of canes, called *guaduas*, which grow to the height of from seventy to one hundred feet. These canes have joints at every two feet, and when tapped, each division yields most excellent and pure water. — All articles of linen are here very scarce, and particularly dear: the only trade is making straw hats of a very poor description, and flounces for dresses, of very coarse workmanship, in imitation of lace, four yards of which are sold for a dollar; and it takes a boy one month to plait sufficient straw to gain the same sum. About three, P. M., my mules arrived, quite tired: my servant told me, that in consequence of the badness of the roads, the mules had fallen, and the baggage come off so frequently, that

they had made but little progress. In one of these falls my thermometer was broken, although most carefully wrapped up in flannel. It is hardly possible to convey these instruments safely over the mountains, as so many unforeseen accidents occur.—I here had the luxury of shaving, which I had not enjoyed during my journey; and after a bath in a neighbouring brook, found myself much refreshed.

Jan. 8th. At daylight commenced making preparations to start; but, unfortunately, one of Lieutenant Ortegas' mules had strayed into the woods, and could not be caught by the men sent in pursuit; but on application to the Alcálde, an old black man, we obtained some dogs and men, accustomed to the woods, and, after two hours' delay, secured the animal. About nine o'clock we mounted, and left La Balsa, being informed that there was a good road for mules all the way to Cartago; but, oh! how terribly were we deceived! Scarcely had we proceeded a mile when we found the roads execrable; mud to the girths, and so slippery that the mules were constantly falling, to the imminent risk of our necks. At last we

were obliged to dismount and walk, to the great annoyance of my companion, who was gaily attired in uniform, in order to make his appearance in Cartago; as to myself, it was of no consequence, being all in the rough, having determined not to quit my travelling dress before I should arrive at that place.—At noon came to the river Vieja, which we crossed in a canoe, swimming our mules alongside. From hence to Cartago is only two hours' passage; but not a canoe is kept for that purpose. Having crossed the river, we continued our route; being frequently obliged to alight, and walk through the terrible mire of the road. To add to our misery, a tremendous thunder-storm came on, attended with a deluging rain. Traversing some part of the road was exactly like walking through waterfalls, where the mules, when left to themselves, could scarcely obtain secure footing. I remained for some time under a very thickly-leafed tree: my friend went on. Shortly after I was about to follow him, perceiving that there was no prospect of an abatement of the storm, when my ears were assailed by what I imagined the hideous roar of a tiger, who appeared to have taken up his position in the very road I had to pass. The roaring ap-

proached me: I had only a pistol, and the rain, pouring in torrents, rendered this but of little use. What was to be done?—there was no time to be lost. I turned my mule's head, and was about to retreat at a round pace, when one of my *peons* came up. I asked him what was to be done? he appeared surprised. "Have you not heard the roar of a tiger approaching this way?" I demanded of him.—"Oh, master," was the reply, "the roaring is only that of a troop of monkies, incommoded by the rain." Such was really the case. The monkies were advancing, roaring in chorus, as they passed from tree to tree. I was glad to get out of hearing of them, and it was some time before I got rid of my fright. I joined my friend, and telling him my adventure, he laughed at me most immoderately; though, I believe, had he been in my place, he would have acted in precisely the same manner.

We were now both of us in a miserable plight—drenched to the skin, covered with mud, and wading up to our knees in it; being compelled to dismount, as our mules were unable to flounder along with us on their backs. Our only amusement was laughing at each other, both appearing in so forlorn a state.

About three o'clock we came in sight of the town of Cartago, situated at the base of the mountain beneath us, on the left bank of the river Vieja. The plain surrounding it was divided by many hillocks, causing a great inequality of the surface. We now rapidly approached the town, descending the mountain by a much improved road, and arrived about half-past four. My friend went to the Juez Politico, and I proceeded to the house of Don Luis Jordan, the administrator of the post-office, and met with a kind reception. He furnished me with a change of clothes, that is, a shirt and pair of trowsers. As he was a short, fat man, this garb made me look very comically; the shirt hanging like a sack on me, and his trowsers just serving as short breeches; but a change was most agreeable; and with a warm dinner, and some old rum in addition, which my host produced, I made myself very comfortable, and was quite restored. At an early hour I begged to retire to my bed, which consisted of a blanket and sheet, spread on a table, for bed and bedding, and a sheet to cover me. I, however, slept very soundly, being much fatigued with my day's journey.

Jan. 9th. A most beautiful morning: the temperature very agreeable. My servant and baggage arrived about ten o'clock. He had been obliged to sleep on the mountains. I now obtained washerwomen, carpenters, and shoemakers, to put to rights the things that had suffered in conveyance. Accompanied Don Luis to visit his partner in office, Don Zerato, a sensible and agreeable man, who had formerly visited Jamaica. He conducted us to visit Monsieur Le Roche, a Frenchman, resident sixteen years in Colombia, having the office of administrator of tobacco. Here we remained a long time, discoursing on general subjects, connected with the mines, and all the productions of the country. These conferences were continued for some days, as I found Monsieur Le Roche excessively well versed in all points on which I desired information; and I subjoin at once what I gleaned from him.

The mines of the Bega de Supia are situated in the valley of the Cauca, three days' journey northward, towards Antioquia. From thence, crossing the Cauca, in the direction of Medellin, the town of Narie on the Magda-

lena may be gained in eight days, with good mule or water-carriage the whole distance. The best mine in the Bega de Supia (in the opinion of M. Le Roche, who was for some time director of them, and is an excellent mineralogist, having studied the subject scientifically) is the mine of Sachafruta, about a quarter of a league from the village called Bega de Supia. Into this mine was an excavation cut horizontally for about forty yards, and then a shaft about fifty yards perpendicular; in extracting the ore from the lower level of which, the shaft filled with water, and stopped the further working of the mine. M. Le Roche inspected it whilst worked, and obtained specimens of every part. He said the mine was particularly rich, and the load two yards thick; that it would not require an adit of more than two hundred yards to drain the mine, and that the cost would not exceed three thousand dollars. The ore extracted would yield about seventy per cent., with every reason to expect that pure silver would be met with, as amongst the last of the load brought out, pieces of silver were found in that state. Since the opening, the mine has

gradually increased in produce; at first only giving five ounces in the quintal of one hundred and twelve pounds of the load, but latterly seventy pounds per cent. M. Le Roche considers that in the first instance the ore must be pounded and washed to obtain the native gold and silver, and the remainder mixed with lead, and passed through the furnace, to obtain the whole of the metal. This mine belongs to private individuals, who have been ruined by the revolution, and have not funds to set it in working order. I proposed an arrangement, which they agreed to; and I have every reason to expect that by this time the mine is being actively wrought. In the Bega de Supid, plenty of *peons* are to be hired, who understand the working of mines; and the provisions of life are to be had in abundance; the hire of each man, with his keep included, not exceeding two reals (a shilling English) per day. The average of the thermometer stands at about 66°.

I. The mine of Pantano, which is silver mixed with lead, yielding sixty per cent. of lead, and three ounces of silver per quintal, is one league from the mine of Sachafruta;

an excellent load. It is quite dry, and has been but little worked.

The mine of Echandia, in the hill of Loaiza, near to that of Pantano, has a very rich load, yielding from seventy to eighty per cent. of silver, with a mixture of gold; it is quite dry, and has only been worked about twenty yards horizontally into the hill. The load is, however, only from sixteen to eighteen inches thick. In the hill of Loaiza there is likewise a mine of native silver, discovered by a woman washing for gold, who, on trying this spot, obtained, in about half a dozen *bateas*, half a pound of silver. This mine has not been worked.

Lastly are the mines of Mermato, many in number; they yield a whitish gold of a low lay, about fourteen carats. The ore is a mixture of gold, silver, copper, and iron; it is in great abundance, and is easily pounded to powder. The present method is to bruise it to dust, and then wash it in dams formed in runs of water, by which much of the metal is lost. There is plenty of water every where; and by erecting pounding-mills, and proper trays for washing, according to the most im-

proved principles of Europe, and on a large scale, with a good capital, much may be made of them. The whole district of the Valley of the Cauca is rich in mineral productions; but has, as yet, been only superficially investigated — leaving much to be examined and gained by clever and enterprising men.

The hills about Cartago are much charged with nitre; to extract a quintal costs about two dollars and a half; but the expense of transporting it to Carthagena would raise it to seventeen dollars and a half, without including any profit; so that, though abundant, it is not likely to become an article of commerce. There is a medicinal salt likewise to be procured in great quantities.

The chief productions of the country are, coffee, cacao, sugar, tobacco, and plantains; in some parts, numbers of cattle are reared. Coffee grows in great abundance in and about Cartago and Caly, yielding about twenty-five pounds a tree, on an average; but this is only cultivated for home consumption, as there is no outlet from the valley, by which to transport the produce to the coast, without an expense that would not be defrayed by

the profits. The cacao of the plains of Cartago is far superior to that of Guayaquil, and is most productive. The sugar-cane is particularly fine, and luxuriant. Tobacco grows for the government only; but any quantity may be produced, the climate being peculiarly adapted for it.

Corn would grow well about Caly, the temperature being the same as at Ibague.

It is much to be regretted that the produce of this fertile valley cannot be exported, and the cultivation thus encouraged; but the want of convenient outlets renders the conveyance so very expensive, as to compel the natives to confine their growth to the quantity merely required for their own use. The least expensive route is from Cartago to Buenaventura, in the Pacific, and this is eight dollars per cwt., having to travel by mules, by *peons*, and by water; so that I fear it will be long before any produce of the valley will pay for exportation, except the precious metals. The magnificent river Cauca runs through the whole of these plains, but is unfortunately only navigable in particular places; and I fear that the resources of the country

will not for some years warrant the expense of forming a fit and convenient road along its banks, even supposing it possible, which is very problematical, as the course of the river is in many parts narrowed by perpendicular rocks.

In the district of Popayan, in this valley, is to be procured a celebrated herb, which cures all wounds, ulcers, and gangrenes, — called *Cabuia*. There are three species of it: one of a clear, blue colour, without prickles at the edge of the leaf, known by the name of Mexican; another greener, with prickles, called *mácho*; and the third class, with few prickles, called *embra*. From the long leaves of this plant, by bruising and beating, a thick juice is expressed; this is mixed with water, boiled, and kept skimmed until reduced to the consistency of honey; it is then fit for use. In cases of cuts, when severe and dangerous, if applied, it cures in three days, and never permits gangrene to take place. The most inveterate ulcers are not known to resist its sanative powers more than fifteen days. In Venezuela they call the plant *cocaisa*, of which they make many uses, and even eat it.

On my return home, I found Lieutenant Ortegas waiting to take leave of me: he had his guide and horses with him, in order to proceed to Caly and Buenaventura. We regretted parting; and I gave him my address in England, to visit which he expressed great desire. In the evening young Malariño came in; and the conversation turning on religion, Don Luis appeared to be very bigotted to his, and to have no idea of reasoning. "How," said he, "can I suppose my creed to be wrong, when so many saints and holy doctors have written, confirming it?"—"Oh!" called out Malariño, "that is very bad reasoning, for every religion has its learned doctors who write in support of it; and, though there are so many religions in the world, yet, according to your argument, each must be right."—There is just now a light breaking in upon the young men, who see the many errors of their religion, and do not yet know how to form their opinions. For a time, I think, by what I can observe, that Deism will be the religion most generally adopted, until the Protestant creed is introduced, which, I have no doubt, will have many partisans in the country.

Our supper was very sparing,—a cup of chocolate and some sweetmeats. I have rarely seen wine or spirits drunk by the Colombians, and often found the want of one or the other; and to the little use of these, and the low and weakening diet of the people, I much attribute the effect of intermittent fever on their constitutions.

Jan. 10th. Employed myself, during the morning, in examining the neighbourhood and its productions. In the afternoon, accompanied Don Luis to visit one of the Alcáldes, whose son had been that morning married. I was very politely received, and introduced to the bride and bridegroom,—an extremely young pair:—the lady short, fat, and a brunette, about fourteen years of age; the gentleman thin, much the same complexion as his wife, and about sixteen years old. I can but think these early marriages very imprudent, to use the mildest term, as they are usually the result of a momentary passion, which, at so juvenile an age, is soon cooled by possession, and renders the remainder of their lives an age of repentance for past precipitancy.

I mentioned to the Alcálde the desertion of

the Colonel on the mountains by the *peon*, as I had been requested to do. He did not appear to give the complaint much attention, merely saying, such things were very common occurrences; but that if the *peon* were taken, he should certainly be punished; without, however, giving any orders for him to be sent for. Such is the natural indolence of the people; and, I have no doubt, he never bestowed a second thought on the matter.

Jan. 11th. Passed the morning in making examinations and enquiries on all subjects connected with the object of my journey; and in the afternoon accompanied Don Luis in a ramble over the town, which is built in squares, and contains about two thousand inhabitants; it formerly had double this number, but was four times sacked by the Pastucians, (who were for the royalist cause during the revolution,) which has necessarily diminished the population. The town is well situated on the left bank of the river Vieja, whose pure and salubrious waters, at a short distance below the town, communicate with the Cauca. The inhabitants have never taken the trouble to dig wells; in consequence they are obliged to

send to the river for all the water needed for domestic uses; whereas, if they would sink wells in every court-yard, they would, most probably, get water about twenty feet below the surface. — There is a cathedral and two parish churches, in good repair, with tolerable organs, made by an ingenious native of the place, who is almost self-taught. What gave me the greatest pleasure was a school, established on the Lancasterian principle, for girls and boys, and which appeared well conducted. The commerce of this place is nearly confined to sending dried beef and live pigs to Chocó; in which province they have scarcely any cattle, as the pasturage will not support them.

I had a long conference with the Juez Politico, who told me that there was much waste land in the vicinity, which would be given to settlers who might go out, and who would easily obtain the necessaries of life; although, from the difficulty of exportation, there was not at present much prospect of making a fortune.

Jan. 12th. Commenced preparations for my departure for Chocó; but experienced considerable difficulty in getting *peons*. In the

evening made an excursion with the Juez Politico, Señor Zereso, Don Luis, and M. Le Roche, to a small hill commanding the town, when, the evening being tolerable, we had a fine view of a ridge of mountains which divides this valley from the Pacific Ocean,—their summits entirely covered with snow. The smoke of a volcano is to be seen, which is situated on the other side of the summit of the mountains. From a small chain of hills, near to this range of mountains, with a good glass, have been seen numbers of the carnivorous elephants, feeding on the plains which skirt these frozen regions: their enormous teeth have occasionally been seen; but no one has yet succeeded in killing one of these animals, or, indeed, in getting near to them. There are great quantities of wild cattle in these plains, to kill which the Indians sometimes make excursions. This chain of mountains runs north-east and south-west.

About three or four leagues from Cartago, a ridge of hills, of but little elevation, rises in the plain, and entirely shelters the town and valley of Cartago from the cold blasts which come from the snow-clad mountains. These chilling winds skirt along the

hills, and burst into the plain, about five leagues distance from Cartago, where, at night, it is sometimes so cold as to require two or three blankets to keep one warm. In the plain behind these hills, the Juez Politico is inclined to think that corn would grow abundantly, as the soil is very rich, and the climate temperate, inclining to cold.

After my return, I had long accounts from Don Luis of the revolution in these parts; and some of the descriptions of the actions gained by the patriots really staggered belief, so much did they savour of the marvellous; but they were so well and universally attested, that to doubt the veracity of my host would have been impossible. The emancipation of this country seemed foredoomed and favoured by Heaven; for under circumstances the most disadvantageous, and in emergencies the most distressing, some unexpected and miraculous incidents occurred, which gave victory to the Republicans, and defeated every effort of the Royalists.

Don Luis enquired if I knew Baron Humboldt, (who, like myself, had resided in his house for a time;) and was sorry that I could not give him any particular information of this

gentleman, except that I had heard he was well when I left Europe. It is but justice to say that, wherever I have followed the steps of the Baron Humboldt, I have heard the most friendly and anxious enquiries after him, and all unite in pronouncing an eulogy on his urbanity of manner, endearing conduct, and gentlemanly deportment.

Jan. 13th. In a conversation with M. Le Roche, he informed me that he had travelled over Buenos-Ayres and the mountains of Peru. He said that in the plains of Buenos-Ayres, about one hundred and fifty leagues from that city, is to be seen the Sierra de Moro, an extinguished volcano, near to the Sierra de San Luis. He examined it as far as he could descend, which was a considerable distance, and from thence a large stone thrown down did not return any sound. May it not be worth the while of some future traveller, provided with Sir Humphrey Davy's lamp, and having erected a windlass, or crane, on the top, to descend this crater, examine more closely the strata of the earth, and scrutinize more intimately the geological formation of the interior of this globe?

CHAPTER XVII.

CAUCA — ANCERMA — PASSAGE OF THE CORDILLERA OF THE ANDES, CALLED CHOCÓ, FROM CARTAGO TO NOVITA—EL CHORO DE PAJEA—RANA DE VENENA — LAS JUNTAS —TANIMA—NOVITA — PROPOSED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC OCEANS.

JAN. 14th. Having on the previous evening paid my parting visits, I started about mid-day, after having with infinite trouble, notwithstanding the assistance of my friend Don Luis, collected my *peons*. I provided myself with a *sillero*, having determined to cross the second range of mountains to reach Chocó; and, examining its mineral treasures, afterwards to descend the river Atrato, to gain Carthagena. The exertions I had made to assemble my *peons*, under the scorching rays of

the sun, caused an attack of bilious fever, within an hour after quitting Cartago. I was obliged to stop, and lie down under the cool of a tree, until the evening; when, with much pain, I succeeded in reaching a small cottage, on the left bank of the Cauca, which river I had to cross. I now had an intense headach, accompanied with cold shiverings, and pains in the back and loins. I examined two prescriptions, given to me, by my friend Dr. Mayne, previously to my quitting Bogotá; and one of them, consisting of six grains of tartar-emetic, mixed with an ounce of Epsom salts, I immediately swallowed, and went to bed. The next day I took *opiata Inglése*, a mixture of bark, sugar, and bitter oranges; being compelled to become my own doctor, as there was not a medical man within a hundred miles of me. The following morning I sent to Ancerma, to procure one of the two persons there who professed a knowledge of the art of bleeding, as I felt my veins overcharged with blood; but I was not successful in obtaining either of these men, both sending me word that they were ill themselves. Thus I was left another day in the same state, with much fever, and pains in the

head and limbs. Having used all my own remedies, without producing the desired effect, I allowed the two women of the *rancha* to try an experiment on me, which, they said, would remove the fever. This was by chewing tallow, then rubbing and anointing my back, and placing bay-leaves on it. I cannot say that I found much benefit from this application, though a considerable quantity of my candles disappeared in the operation.

I sent early next day to the Alcálde, requesting he would exert his influence to procure me the aid of one of the phlebotomists; and accordingly, in the afternoon, the Júez Politico arrived, bringing with him one of these operators. He certainly looked, as he said he was, excessively ill:—his long thin visage was wan and pallid, from the effects of intermittent fever—he scarcely seemed to have strength sufficient to perform the operation, which however, after tying my arm up so tight as to cause me much needless pain, and pulling and jerking me about for a long time, he effected, by cutting a tolerable-sized gash in the vein, which bled profusely; and desirous of checking the fever, I allowed it to flow for some

time, notwithstanding the advice of the Alcálde and the operator, both of whom seemed alarmed at my losing so large a quantity. This bleeding gave me instant relief; my eyes becoming clear, and the pain in my head abating. The Juez Politico begged me, the moment I was strong enough, to leave the cottage and take up my residence in his house, which was larger and more airy. He then left me; on which the women of the *rancha* came to me, requesting I would not quit them, as they would take much greater care of me than the Juez Politico could; but I easily saw through their mercenary motives, as they were living on the stock of provisions which I had laid in for my journey. I now retired to rest, and slept well, which I had not done for four nights previously. The following morning I found myself so much recovered, that I got into my mountain-chair, and was conveyed to the house of the Juez Politico, which I found much more agreeable than the cottage. I remained here until the 23d of January, when, by the kindness of my worthy friend, I was sufficiently recovered to proceed on my journey, although still suffering from weakness. — About five,

P. M., arrived at *La Cabezara*, a retired spot, situated at the junction of two streams, at the foot of the mountain we had to cross, to reach the province of Chocó. Here we were obliged to halt and pitch our tents for the night, as one of the *peons* had not yet joined us, although only two leagues distant from Ancerma.

Ancerma, the village I had just left, is small, and thinly populated. It has suffered much from the revolution, as the inhabitants were royalists.

Jan. 24th. Rose at daylight, and being joined by the *peon* we had waited for, I seated myself in the chair on the back of my *sillero*, and commenced our journey. The road was excessively bad and unequal, the rain falling in torrents. Arrived about three at a clear spot, called *El Torrecito*, where I had to wait two hours in the drenching rain, until a *rancha* could be made. The moment my bed was placed, I crept into it, as my only comfort, and felt myself attacked by rheumatic pains, and every symptom of intermittent fever. I took some hot chocolate, and went to sleep.

Jan. 25th. Pushed on, as soon as we had

breakfasted. At one o'clock arrived at a *contadero,* called Caraval, where I missed a *peon.*

I sent my servant and *sillero* in search of him, who returned in about an hour and a half with my trunk, which they had found in the wood by tracing his footsteps. He had pushed on ahead of the party, and, turning into the wood, had concealed himself until we passed; then taking his provisions, left the trunk without doing it any injury, and returned home. He had received the greater part of his hire, having been particularly well recommended to me. To this species of inconvenience travellers are much exposed on the mountains, being entirely at the mercy of their *peons.* It has been known that every *peon* has deserted a traveller, and left him alone, with all his baggage, on these mountains.

Having already lost so much time, and the heavens assuming a threatening aspect, I deemed it advisable to erect a *rancha,* which was completed just in time to shelter me from a tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, and deluging rain.

Jan. 26th. The quantity of rain which had fallen during the night had made the roads

excessively bad.* I had no option, in consequence of the defection of my *peon*, but to walk, or to leave one of my trunks behind me. I determined on the former, and, putting on *alpargates*, we set forward. These sandals, being badly made, soon went on one side, and I had recourse to a pair of laced boots, made of hide, which being too large, filled with water, and rendered walking excessively inconvenient; though, if properly made, they are the best things to travel with in this country. My last resource was a pair of English shooting-shoes; but from the inequality of the road, which was a layer of mud, sometimes knee-deep, sometimes *only* to the ancle, over roots of trees, which perpetually twisted the foot, I soon had my ancle chafed so severely as to cause a sore. I put leaves in my shoes to relieve my foot, but they soon wore out, and I was in excessive pain and misery, but obliged to proceed. At one o'clock we stopped in a romantic dell, to which we descended, as the weather was clearing up. Two streams were dashing past us, and we were embosomed in mountains and woods. In front of the cave in which we sat, were myriads of butterflies — it

was impossible to step without crushing them under foot, they were in such flocks. After refreshing ourselves, we waded over the two streams, which, in the wet season, are not fordable, being then united into one deep broad torrent, perfectly impassable. We continued for two hours ascending the course of a tolerably deep brook, wading for a considerable part of the time through the water. The occasional glimpses of the stream, dashing along its course, was very picturesque, the water sparkling, throwing up its white foam as it hurried over the stones;—the sun beams glittering most brilliantly on it, as it wound its way amongst the trees, forming rainbows in the spray.

About this spot they say there are many tigers, who will boldly seize upon a dog, even when led by a *peon*; for my part I did not see any; nor was a very fine dog which I had brought with me from Bogotá, at all molested. On arriving at our resting-place (called Higeron) for the night, I found myself quite exhausted, and felt that it would be impossible for me to proceed on foot next day. A troop of *peons*, young and old, now passed us on their return from Chocó, whither they had been

carrying provisions. I saw the means they adopt to initiate the boys into their trade; some young lads, about eight or nine years of age, had small chairs on their backs, on which they carry about an *aroba* (twenty-five pounds) of salt at first, increasing the weight in proportion as they grow older and more experienced in the business. I endeavoured to prevail on one of these men to supply the place of my runaway *peon*, but they declined, supposing, no doubt, that I should not pay them, saying that others were following who might perhaps agree with me. This, however, proved false, as I saw none pass. I contrived, by dividing the provisions equally amongst my party, to prevail on the *peon* who had carried the stock, now much diminished, to convey my trunk for additional remuneration, and I thus had my *sillero* again.

I found myself very unwell, and was very glad to get to bed.

Jan. 27th. The morning miserable; hard and incessant rain. Left Higeron, and went along the continuation of the brook for two hours, when, on climbing a mountain, we got into the old Spanish road. Here I suffered

a good deal; for the road, by constant use and the rain wearing it away, had sunk down considerably into a kind of narrow galleries, with perpendicular sides, over which the trees, loosened in their roots, had in many places fallen so low as to compel my *sillero* to stoop very frequently to enable us to pass under them; sometimes he did not bend sufficiently, and I often received a violent blow on the back of my head, from the intervening branch of a tree, which knocked off my hat, and leaving me half stunned, added materially to the violent pains I experienced in every part of my body. How often, whilst I was scarcely able to keep my seat in the chair from soreness of limbs, and the rain falling in torrents, and drenching me to the skin, did I wish myself safe out of these mountains!—how often did I vow never again to cross them! About four o'clock we arrived at an open spot called *Las Cruces*, where we stopped; some of the *peons*, who had arrived before me, had made a small *rancha*, I got into it, and shortly after found that all the *peons* refused, as it rained hard, to make my tent; they said they were unwell. Finding this was a mere pretext, I told them,

they might do as they pleased, I and my servant would take possession of the *rancha* they had erected; and that they, if they did not choose to build one, might sleep in the rain. Knowing I was well armed, and finding me determined, they at last made me a tent, to which I was obliged to be assisted, as my pained limbs would scarcely allow me to walk. My food was very bad, chiefly chocolate and biscuit; for I did not like the salt pork or beef, nor indeed would my stomach bear them! The cold on this spot was excessive, and the air very raw and damp.

Jan. 28th. Constant torrents of rain. Road, if possible, worse than yesterday. Had often to go through narrow passes, between banks twenty feet high, and almost dark, from the quantity of vegetable matter grown over head. My *sillero* found himself so unwell from rheumatism in his neck, that I was obliged to get another *peon* to convey the chair. In the evening arrived at El Choro de Pajea, a small cottage built of reeds, or a kind of bamboo; the habitable part raised about four or five feet from the ground; below, they generally keep their pigs, &c. delightful companions to put one

to sleep! and yielding the perfumes of Arabia! —thus regaling two senses at once. I was, however, much pleased to get some chicken-broth and a fresh egg, which I procured shortly after I had got to bed.

Jan. 29th. On awaking I found myself so unwell, as to be scarcely able to move, and nearly all the *peons* were unable to proceed. Became a little better towards the afternoon; and rising, went to walk up and down a sunny spot, which I enjoyed highly—having seen the sun but once only since the 23d. Had all my wet clothes dried; and made an addition to our stock of provisions by purchasing fowls and eggs.

During the evening, the owner of the place amused us with accounts of tigers. He said that they had killed almost all his poultry, and had endeavoured to force his room to get his dog (of which food they are particularly fond); but this animal having scented the tiger, by his barking aroused his master, who rose and made a great noise, which frightened the tiger away. He always slept after this, he told us, with an Indian blow-pipe near him, and poisoned arrows; but the tiger did not

return. He then mentioned several other stories of the boldness of tigers, which were not particularly agreeable to me, as I was placed on an open platform, on which a tiger could easily spring; but this did not prevent me from going to sleep soon after.

Jan. 30th. Rose at daylight, having slept very little, and passed an unpleasant night, from most extraordinary, rapid, and profuse perspiration, which, however, eventually did me great good, as it considerably removed the rheumatism. Found two of my *peons* unable to stir from severe attacks of intermittent fever. Determined on stopping a few hours, in hopes of the arrival of the post, which was due at this place.

I asked the owner to show me his blow-pipe and arrows, which he did without hesitation. The pipe was made of two pieces of reed, each forming a half circle; these being placed together left a small hole, just large enough for the admission of the arrow. The reeds, which are about twelve feet long, were bound round with green hide, cut into thongs, and, when dry, covered with a coat of milk from the *caucho*-tree; which, dried, prevents any air from entering,

and appears of a dark-brown colour. The arrows are about eight inches long, formed of a fine-grained wood; the point very sharp, and cut like a corkscrew for an inch up, showing a very fine thread, that composes the spiral screw; this is rolled in the poison, which is permitted to dry on it. Round the thicker end is wound fine cotton, in the natural state, until it will just easily enter the tube, which is applied to the mouth, and aim being taken with the eye, the arrow is blown out. A practised marksman will send it with great correctness, killing a bird on the top of a high tree. The arrow will fly one hundred yards, and is certain death to man or animal wounded by it; no cure as yet having been discovered. A tiger when hit, runs ten or a dozen yards, staggers, becomes sick, and dies in four or five minutes. A bird is killed as with a bullet; and the arrow and wounded part of the flesh being cut out, the remainder is eaten without danger.

The poison is obtained from a small, harmless frog, called *rana de veneno*, about three inches long, yellow on the back, with very large black eyes. It is only to be found (as

my host informed me) in this place, and another, called *Pelmar*. Those who use this poison catch the frogs in the woods, and confine them in a hollow cane, where they regularly feed them until they want the poison, when they take one of the unfortunate reptiles, and pass a pointed piece of wood down his throat, and out at one of his legs. This torture makes the poor frog perspire very much, especially on the back, which becomes covered with white froth: this is the most powerful poison that he yields, and in this they dip or roll the points of their arrows, which will preserve their destructive power for a year. Afterwards, below this white substance, appears a yellow oil, which is carefully scraped off, and retains its deadly influence for four or six months, according to the goodness (as they say) of the frog. By this means, from one frog sufficient poison is obtained for about fifty arrows.

The post not having arrived by three in the afternoon, I determined on proceeding to *La Puénte* to sleep, leaving two of my *cargos* behind. I accordingly set out, and met the post by the way, to whom I gave a letter, which I

had prepared, for Don Luis Jordan. With the post were eight or ten *peons*, two of whom I hired to bring on the *cargos* I had left behind. At five, arrived at La Puénte, a small cottage, close to a bamboo-bridge, decayed and dangerous. It crosses a rapid stream, which there joins a mountain-torrent, and they together form a tolerably broad, but unnavigable river which continues its course to *Las Júntas*, where it unites with another mountain-river and becoming navigable, is called the *Tamina*.

I found the inhabitants of La Puénte employed in preparing bamboos to make a new house, one of their old ones having fallen down. I learnt that it had only lasted five years, and that the reason of its fall was, that the part inserted in the ground had become rotten. I immediately advised them, in the building of their new house, to char the end they intended to place in the ground, which they promised to do; and will thus enable their houses to last twenty, instead of five years. Slept uncomfortably. Weather very warm.

Jan. 31st. My servant unwell; *peons* complaining, and trying very much to loiter; my *siller'o* again complained of rheumatism in his

neck, and could carry me no farther: I was consequently obliged to walk. At one o'clock the *peons* told me that they would not proceed that day. I informed them that if they did not, I would not pay them a sixpence more than they had already received. After much quarrelling I got them on; and about sunset arrived at El Choro Grande, where I slept under the same shed with the *peons*, they being too tired to make me a tent. The rain fell in torrents all night.

During the day we had been in want of water, and my *sillero*, who knew the woods well, conducting me to a particular spot, made an incision in the bark of a *guadua*-tree, from which the water flowed in abundance. Applying my mouth to the orifice, I quenched my thirst with the fluid, which was fine, clear, and delicious. Each joint of this tree contains about two gallons of water.

Feb. 1st. Began our march at daylight. Our route lay directly along a ridge of mountains, leading down to *Las Juntas*. My *sillero* being sufficiently recovered to carry me, I was mounted in my chair, when suddenly, about noon, he turned round, and began descending

an almost perpendicular declivity, backwards. My face was thus turned to the abyss below, the bottom of which was two thousand feet from the place where we were, with a platform sixty feet beneath us, about twelve feet square. My *sillero* commenced his descent, holding by the roots of trees, sometimes with only one hand, whilst with the other he was scratching with his pole, of hardened wood, pointed, (which all the *peons* have in these mountainous parts,) a place for his foot to rest on at his next step. I had been taken by surprise, and called out to him, as soon as possible, to set me down; but he desired me to sit quite still, if I had any regard for my safety, with which I complied, and we eventually reached the small platform below without accident,*.

We here halted for some time before we again proceeded. The road continued along this lower ridge; the path at first nearly fourteen feet wide, but gradually narrowing to about two feet, and continuing so with but little variation for some distance; the sides of the

* See Frontispiece to this Volume.

mountain being nearly perpendicular, and the trees growing thickly on them, up to the very edge of our path on either side. Occasionally, where the trees allowed, we had a picturesque and commanding view of the deep vales beneath, and the towering mountains that surrounded them, whilst a boisterous and foaming torrent dashed below, on both sides of the mountains we traversed, hurrying on the same course as ourselves to the termination of the ridge, at Las Juntas; and adding by its silvery appearance and sparkling foam, to the magnificence of the striking scenery.

Saw several *ranas de veneno* in the damp places in the wood. About three o'clock we arrived at the passage of the river, directly opposite to which is the small village of Las Juntas. We hailed the passage-canoe, which crossed, and conveyed us over at two or three trips. I went immediately to the Alcâlde, a mulatto, who received me very civilly, and took charge of my baggage. I then arranged with him for canoes for the following morning, and, after procuring a tolerable supper, retired to rest; but what with a tremendous thunder-storm, torrents of rain, an In-

dian dance, where they kept beating a drum all night, and the grunting of more than a score of pigs, directly beneath me, I did not succeed in getting much sleep.

Feb. 2d. Rose at daylight, and found the river much increased. The Alcálde shortly joined me, and told me it would be impossible to go that day, as the river was not navigable; besides, the Indians had been dancing all night, and most of them had got drunk, which would incapacitate them for directing a canoe steadily and safely, in a rapid and dangerous river. After breakfast I walked out to inspect the village, which consisted of a church, and twelve small houses, which latter are built of canes, and the habitable part raised about four feet from the ground; beneath, they keep their pigs.

The village is situated on a rising ground, with a small piece of land cleared behind it, where I saw a few cattle feeding,—the only remains of a considerable stock, which had been reared with much care by a speculating native of the place; all the rest had been destroyed during the revolution. Pigs are almost their only animal food. Pork is sold at about nine-

pence a pound; it is very rancid, and bad of digestion: but travellers must take what they can get. Almost their only commerce consists in sending pigs, plantains, and Indian corn, to Novita; from whence they procure, in exchange, cotton and woollen goods, which come from England. There are some gold mines near, but of little consequence. The inhabitants have been much annoyed of late by a very bold tiger, that comes, during the night, into the village, and kills their pigs: they have people on the watch to kill him. The population of the place is about seventy souls.

1 Feb. 3d. Rose at dawn of day, breakfasted, and prepared for embarkation. Sent very early to Guaybal, by an Indian, to order the necessary canoes. A little before eight, bade adieu to the Alcálde, who had evinced great civility; and embarking on the river Tamina, we glided with great rapidity down the stream, passing many dangerous shoals and rapids. In one place we were hurried with great velocity down a rapid; but fortunately, without filling the canoe: I, however, got wet, and was glad when we were clear of this very dangerous spot.

Either side of the river was thickly wooded, and in many parts excessively beautiful, where the branches of the trees swept the water, and the evergreen creepers closely matted together the foliage of several trees, and mounting to their tops, hung gracefully and fantastically down in elegant clusters and festoons, agitated by every breeze. Such is the great luxuriance of nature, that each shrub or tree weakens or destroys its neighbour, by its excess of produce, which is greater than the space will admit. One plant springs up to destroy its predecessor, and is doomed to the same fate itself by the growth of its successor. It appears as if a war existed amongst the plants, similar to that which devastates the human world, and prevails even amongst brutes and insects. All strive for the mastery, and the weak yields to the strong, who, in his turn, is subdued by a stronger. It is a curious fact that all nature appears warring with itself; whether we contemplate the sea, the earth, or the air,—rational or irrational beings, all is at war with its own species. Why it should be so—what good or great object is gained by it, we know not; we only perceive that all are under some

irresistible influence, and impelled by some invisible power. This mystery remains unexplained, and reason is imperfect, or at a loss, when we observe so many things ordained by Nature, which are contrary to our ideas of the true measure and execution of justice and mercy.

In the course of an hour and a half I arrived at La Cabézera, where I had to disembark, as the river, for two leagues, is not navigable for canoes. Rafts only, on which the Indians tie themselves, can pass the rapids. I now, therefore, paid for the four canoes I had employed, at the rate of thirteen pence per person, or per trunk: from this spot the *peons* carried the baggage to a cottage, called Guaybal. We kept close to the river most of the way, and saw its rapids, and sudden falls, over which I am astonished that any raft can pass. I met the messenger I had sent in the morning, who told me he had ordered the canoes; which, however, I did not get for an hour after my arrival. At this spot I discharged my *peons*, having to pay each one dollar for the last two leagues, besides their hire, of two dollars for every twenty-five pounds. I was rejoiced to get rid

of them; but kept my *sillèro* with me, as a steady good man.

About three I embarked with two large canoes for the *bodégas* of Novita, where I arrived about five o'clock, wet through, having passed through several rapids, where we could hardly keep the canoe from filling; at three or four places my servant and myself were obliged to land, in order to make the canoe light enough to pass the rapids. We then joined again at some point lower down. I observed several gold mines under operation, but was informed that none of them were very rich.

On arriving at this place, I left some of my trunks in the *bodéga* (or custom-house,) devoted to the purpose of temporary warehouse for goods intended to be carried further on. The houses are made of cane, and you ascend to the entrance by mounting a pole, with notches cut in it, to serve as steps: underneath, the pigs are kept, whose dirt and noise render the habitation miserable. I proceeded up the hill to Novita, about twenty minutes' walk; the road horrible, partly through water, and the rest up a slippery hill, on the rise of which, between two other small eminences, is situat-

ed the miserable town of Novita. I went to the house of Francisco Mosquera, to whom I had a letter of introduction; but he was absent at his mine. I was, however, received by his cousin, Pepeta Mosquera, lately married to Don Raphael Mosquera, who is representative for Novita in the Congress. Shortly after my arrival, her father, Señor Hurtado, administrador of the post-office, came in, and her brother Juakim, a young lad about sixteen, who has a situation in the administration of tobacco. Supper was soon served, and we had much conversation on the state and resources of Chocó. Amongst other things, Señor Hurtado informed me, that if I wished to proceed to Citera, it would be absolutely necessary to despatch a messenger to order a canoe to come to the *Tambo* of San Pablo, on the Citera side of the Isthmus of San Pablo; as otherwise I might have to wait perhaps a month on the *Tambo*, where no one lives, until, by chance, a canoe should arrive. He then added, that I had but little prospect of getting away from Citera in less than a month or six weeks, as there is no boat belonging to that place trading to Carthagena. The boats are called *champanas*, and only arrive

when hired by merchants to transport goods; so that sometimes a *champana* does not appear in the river for three or four months: and, as one had left Citera only a week previously, it was unlikely that another would soon appear. This was entirely contrary to my previous information in Bogotá, by persons natives of Chocó. I determined instantly on sending a *chasque* to Citera for a canoe, that I might be ready on the spot for the next *champana;* and accordingly requested Señor Hurtado to despatch the messenger on the following morning, which he promised to do. The expense of this messenger is ten dollars. He goes from Novita to Citera in a small canoe, (which is always in readiness,) in two days and a half; it there requires one or two days to prepare a large canoe, and three to ascend the river to the *Tambo* on the Citera side.

Found myself very unwell during the night, having caught cold from being constantly wet in the canoe. It poured in torrents until morning.

Feb. 4th. Visited the Juez Politico, a sensible man; then called on Señor Hurtado, and had a very long conversation with him. He

informed me that all the gold mines of Chocó do not yield more than from eighteen to twenty quintals (a hundred weight, English) of gold, and about ten quintals of platina per annum. They formerly yielded more, but the war has drawn away all the best negroes, and the laws of the Congress are taking the rest; for any negro that does not like his master can go and offer himself to the commanding officer of a regiment, who is obliged to receive him, for a soldier, giving his master a promissory paper on the government for the value of the slave, which may not be paid these ten years: besides this, every child a negro has had, since the freedom of the republic, is born free, the master being obliged to support him until the age of eighteen, after which he is offered for the service of the army; but if not wanted, he is allowed to go wherever he chooses. There is, besides, a tax of three per cent. on the property of every person deceased, which goes to a fund, formed in every district, for the emancipation of the best-conducted slaves. The consequence will be, that in about thirty years there will not be a slave in Colombia. This is a cheering and delightful thought,—

humanity and all the better feelings of the heart rejoice at it; but poor Chocó will be almost deserted, — the only inhabitants will be free blacks, who are too lazy to work mines, being perfectly contented if they can procure a sufficiency of plantains and Indian corn for subsistence.

From investigations I made, I found that the best mines of Chocó scarcely pay the working now; in consequence, they cannot defray the hire of free negroes, who demand six rials, or three shillings and three-pence, per day. As yet the mines have been worked entirely without machinery. They have not even a common pump to draw the water from the pits they make; and to remove a very large stone sometimes requires the whole force of many negroes for three weeks. Did they but know the use of gunpowder to blast the rocks; or had they but proper patent cranes for removing the pieces, and pumps for drawing off the water, the mines might be worked to much greater advantage; but there is not a man of capital in the whole province, who can enter into the expense, or afford to lay out his money for a year.

Platina is found with the gold, and is thus separated from it:—A quantity of water and quicksilver is thrown in with the gold-dust, and well mixed, until the whole appears like paste; it is then put into small moulds, and pressed down until it takes a consistent form, when it is turned out, and placed in a red-hot iron grating, below which is a basin of water; over the grating is placed a large bowl so as to cover it. The quicksilver is expelled by the heat, and flies to the bowl, which is a species of retort. The platina falls into the water, and the gold remains in a firm state on the grating and perfectly pure. The mines that are considered worth working, give two pounds of platina to six of gold. There are, however, many neglected mines, that give six and eight pounds of platina for two of gold. The government are now endeavouring to buy up all the platina, and having it sent to Bogotá, in order, as report states, to make a coinage of it. But as British merchants here offer eight or ten dollars a pound for it, about five-sixths are obtained by them, and smuggled to Jamaica. It is great impolicy that the Congress does not entirely do away with the old

Spanish system of monopoly; if they would put on a moderate duty, and allow the exportation of gold and platina, they would secure a handsome revenue from it; but as they entirely prohibit the exportation of these metals, the whole is smuggled to Jamaica, and at a moderate rate. No one will send gold-dust to any of the mints, because the government have several times seized what was sent, and only given promissory paper in return. The consequence is, that scarcely a pound of gold-dust remains in Colombia, and hardly a shilling is drawn from the mines of Chocó, towards the exigencies of the state. What blind policy!

In another point the Congress has been badly advised. They have shut up the river Atrato, so that no vessel can stand directly over from Jamaica, and come up to Citera, as was usual before, but is obliged to go to Carthagena, and clear out, which is a considerable expense and loss of time. Besides this, the Congress have taken off the *alcabala*, which was a duty, at a low rate, on every thing sold, either foreign or domestic; this brought in a great revenue to the state, and was not felt, or complained against, at least in Chocó. In-

stead of this, has been instituted a property-tax, which is much disliked, and yields but very little, as some of the natives have no compunction in swearing to a falsehood, where their interest is concerned.

Gold sells here at two hundred dollars the pound, the lay being twenty-one to twenty-two *quilates*, which is almost the richest any where procured. In Jamaica it is worth two hundred and fifty dollars, which is a strong inducement for smuggling.

About Novita are procured many milks and balsams, which may some day become valuable in trade. Amongst others, the most conspicuous are *leche de Liria*, used as glue; *leche de Caucho*, for making writing-ink, and if put (when just extracted from the tree) upon roanas, boots, hats, &c. it makes them perfectly impervious to water. I have no doubt that this milk will some day be in great repute.

Leche de sande gives a species of butter from which candles are made.

Copal, a kind of gum, is procured here in great quantities; it is used in the churches as frankincense, and when boiled with oil of Canimé makes an excellent varnish.

There is also Cavanio, an oil used for curing cuts, &c.; and Canimé, an excellent oil for painting.

There are, I was informed, many beautifully grained and valuable kinds of wood in the forests; but it is scarcely possible to get them out, as they have no roads through them;—and the neighbourhood of Citera (where would be the only place to procure it, so as to pay for the expense of exportation) is so enveloped in morasses, that it is almost impossible to enter the woods.

The rain fell incessantly during the day, causing a rawness in the air, which, added to the cold I was suffering under, obliged me to retire to rest early, as I found myself very unwell.

Feb. 5th. Kept my bed all day, being extremely ill, during which it rained constantly: and, I believe, twenty-four hours rarely pass at Novita without rain, more or less.

Feb. 6th. A fine day; much better; walked to a rising ground to get a view of the town, which is very small, consisting only of one short street, built in a ravine, where the only advantage they have is, that the place is well

supplied with water, which flows from the hills from the constant falling of the rain, and not from springs. A clear spot has been made close to the river Tamina, and the ground marked out on which a new Novita is to be built; and the change will materially benefit the trade of the place.

In the evening, thunder, lightning, and heavy rain; endeavoured to procure a book to read, but in vain, although I was in the first house in the place. The people are miserably ignorant. The administrador told me that he had never read the Bible or Testament, and wished much to procure them in Spanish: I trust the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge will soon forward a good supply to all parts of Colombia. Now we have a consul-general in Bogotá, I suppose we shall have consuls at every one of the chief ports; and by sending Bibles to them, they can be safely distributed to people who will preserve them: but care must be taken not to let them get into the hands of the priests, who would speedily burn or destroy them, knowing well that their despotic reign would be brief, if the Bible were once universally read by the com-

munity at large, whose eyes would be opened to all their wiles, dissimulation, bigotry, and deceit.

Feb. 6th. Rained all night; morning tolerably fair. Had but scanty fare. Pigs are the only animals killed in Novita. Beef is brought from Cartago, and sells at one shilling and sixpence per pound.

Feb. 8th. Sunday. The negroes, who had been working during the week at the mines, had returned to Novita the previous evening, and made their appearance at mass. The population, which is all nearly black, amounts to about one thousand souls. The blacks turned out very clean; the women appeared very fond of gaudy colours. The natives are generally healthy, though the whites look very sallow. An European constitution, however, cannot well stand the humidity, and constant attacks of intermittent fever. Purchased all requisites for my journey to Citera.

Monday, 9th. Rose at daylight, and packed. Mounted my mule, accompanied by Juakim Hurtado down to the *bodéga*, where, at nine o'clock, I embarked in a tolerably large

canoe, with two negroes. Immediately on quitting the shore, we were carried down the river with great velocity, there having been a great increase of water during the night. Passed many small plantations of plantains; and stopped at one to take in a third negro, to assist in poling, when we should come to the river San Juan. After three hours' running with this rapid stream, which takes its course southward, we entered into the river San Juan, by which, in three days, you may arrive at the Pacific Ocean.

We fortunately found the San Juan very low, which was favourable for our poling. On entering it, we altered our course from south to west, and, skirting along the side of the river, commenced ascending. At the junction with the Tamina, the San Juan appeared to be about four hundred yards broad, without much current; but, as we ascended, it became narrower, shallower, and more rapid. A little after sunset we arrived at the village of San Pablo, where several gold mines are worked; having passed these, we crossed over to the Tambo of San Pablo, on the Novita side, in

order to be ready to proceed across the Isthmus the following morning. On landing, I went up to the Tambo, where I found an Alcálde, placed by the government to collect a *real* duty on every *tercio* (or load) passed over the Isthmus. He was a very civil man, and endeavoured to make the place as agreeable as he could.

The Tambo is very badly placed, being in a morass, the river often rising sufficiently high to surround it. About thirty yards distance there is an eminence, where the Tambo might be placed without being subject to this inconvenience.

Found the Alcálde and his wife very communicative, professing great friendship for the English. I enquired of the old lady what advantage the revolution had been to her? and why she was not as well off under the Spanish government as under the republic? Her reply was, "Oh! I can now procure English goods at one-third of the price at which they could be purchased during the dominion of the Spaniards." The same reply was invariably given to me, on making this enquiry of many of the natives. Slept agreeably cool.

Feb. 10th. Rose at daylight; and made my arrangement with the *peons* for carrying my baggage to the other Tambo, at two *reals* for twenty-five pounds. I had to pay the *sillero* three dollars. As I was on the point of starting, it commenced raining, which detained me until noon, during which time I amused myself by conversing with the Alcálde.

The Tambo, which made an excellent quarter-deck, is built of bamboo, and raised about ten feet from the ground; it is all open, except one corner, where two little cabins are formed for the Alcálde. The Tambo is about fifty feet long, thirty broad, and twenty high. On this platform are placed the *tercios*, and there, likewise, the passengers have to lie. Beneath are divisions made for securing pigs.

At noon, the rain having abated, I set off. I had first to embark in a very small canoe, poled by a man and his daughter, a fine, young, black girl, who had a handkerchief tied across her shoulders, covering one breast, and leaving the other bare. She had the complete appearance of a black Amazon, evincing much strength and quickness in the use of her pole, and considerable agility in occasionally spring-

ing out of the canoe to bear it from a rock, and jumping in again when it was rapidly moving on.

It is by the junction of this river with the stream of Citera, that it is proposed to make a canal, (so that there may be no land-carriage from Citera to Novita,) and thereby connect the Pacific with the Atlantic Ocean.

After winding for about a league up this brook, which was in many places impervious to the rays of the sun, from the thickness of the foliage that crossed over head, we arrived at a woodland path, where we made the canoe fast and commenced our journey. I found the road execrable in parts. My *sillero* had to cross over bridges formed by a single log of wood. I by no means relished this, and, indeed, my situation was not at all comfortable, as, had his foot slipped, I should most likely have broken my neck. Nearly the whole of the road was formerly made by the Spaniards; of wood placed crossways, or, if they had large timber, laid lengthways. This, through neglect, has fallen into decay; and from want of repair is in a very wretched plight. After

an hour's travelling, I came to the rising ground that divides this stream from the one on the Citera side. I particularly inspected it, and found the distance from one stream to the other to be about four hundred yards, and the height of the ground necessary to cut through, about seventy feet; but after digging a very few feet you come to solid rock, which would make the undertaking expensive: besides, it would be necessary to deepen each stream for about a league, so that, I think, the least cost would be five hundred thousand dollars, to make a good communication from the Atrato to the San Juan;—a most desirable object; but I scarcely think it will be commenced these fifty years, unless the government becomes rich enough to advance the money, or some foreigners undertake it; for the natives have not capital sufficient, and if they had, they are too indolent to attempt any thing that may present the least trouble or difficulty,—future reward being with them no temptation to present labour. But it would certainly be a long time before any duty that could be levied, would pay the interest of the

money so expended; but should this even be effected, there is a still more desirable plan of uniting the two oceans through the Isthmus of Panama, where two rivers may be connected by a canal, cut through all levels valley, about a league and a half. This junction would enable steam-vessels to pass from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean; and previously to quitting Bogotá, I formed a plan for a company to be established in England for effecting this, which will be laid before the ensuing Congress.

From this spot I arrived, after an hour's walk, at the Tambo of Čitera. It was empty, and constructed like the one I had left. I here discharged all my *peons* but one, and determined on waiting until the canoe should arrive for me, which ought to have been in waiting.

I was rather at a loss how to cook my dinner, and was obliged to eat my salt beef and pork fried on the embers, and my eggs roasted. How to make my chocolate I did not know; at last I thought of the only tin pot I had, for drinking out of. I tried it, and finding that it

stood fire, made chocolate; but was not able to drink it, (as it was scalding hot,) until I sent it down to the running brook, when it soon became cool enough. I then retired to rest in a small cabin built in the Tambo.

Feb. 11th. Daylight, but no canoe. Began to get very tired of my confinement; for I could not go outside the Tambo to walk, as it was surrounded by morass.

CHAPTER XVIII.

CITERA—VOYAGE DOWN THE ATRATO — SEA VOYAGE TO CARTHAGENA.

At noon, to my great joy, the canoe appeared; and embarking my baggage, by half-past one we set off, steering to the westward: the stream very shallow and narrow—the Indians every moment obliged to get out and drag the canoe along. We were much annoyed by numerous trees in our course; which, however, the Indians avoided with great dexterity. Having descended for two hours, we came to the influx of another stream, called Rapadura, coming from the north-east, which, uniting here with the stream of Citera (or Rio Pablo), gives its name to the river from this point, and is called Rapadura;—it runs west-north-west. The river gradually increased

in breadth, and became deeper, with fewer trees in our way. At five in the evening we reached an empty tambo, called El Platanéro, our resting-place for the night. I only landed my hammock, not wishing to disturb any thing else in the canoe, that I might have no delay in starting at daybreak in the morning. Shortly after I entered the tambo, an Indian arrived with his family, consisting of his wife and two children, who came to take up their abode in the tambo for the night. The woman soon made a most excellent fire, which cooked us a tolerable supper. I supplied the Indians with some meat, for which they were much obliged. On enquiring into their method of living, they told me they cultivated Indian corn and plantains, near Citera, and carried the produce to different parts to sell. They were just returning from selling some of their corn, &c. The woman and children were decked with a great many silver ornaments.

I asked my steersman why this tambo was deserted. He said that it had formerly belonged to the Indians, who had cultivated plantains there. All the Indians had died, and none others of the natives would live

there, because it was reported that the ghosts of the dead Indians walked about in the night. I retired to my hammock, and slept soundly, without being disturbed by ghost or visited by vision. The Indians spread some skins beneath them: the man lay on one side, the two children in the centre, and the woman on the other side—the party being covered with two blankets.

Feb. 12th. Set off with the first dawn of day. Made chocolate in the canoe—an excellent fortifier of the stomach against the damp morning air. Having continued our course for three hours, we stopped to breakfast at a small cottage, and afterwards continued descending the river. At one o'clock, we came to the river Sespida, which unites with the Rapadura, and runs to the north-west, taking the name of Sespida. The river now became about fifty yards broad, with but few obstructions. To avoid a long bend in the river, we went through a narrow creek, which makes a short cut; in doing so we got aground, and the Indians had to get out to drag the canoe over. No sooner had they succeeded in doing this, than the steersman killed a venomous snake with

his paddle, apparently just in the spot where they had stood; most fortunately they had not trodden on the reptile. The snakes seldom attack, unless you hurt them; but are not inclined to get out of the way. It now commenced raining very hard, and continued so until late in the evening. About sunset we arrived at a spot called El Pato, where I got some chocolate, and bought some anise of the country, which I was almost sorry for having done, as it made all the Indians drunk. The moon, however, came out clear, which enabled us to avoid the few dangers there were in the river. About eleven at night I stopped at a small cottage, belonging to a blacksmith called Nicholas Rocha, who received me very kindly. In this place I slept in my hammocks.

Feb. 13th. Rose at six, and having dressed so as to make my appearance in the Citera, we set off, and soon arrived in sight of the Indian part of the town, which is formed of small, round-built cottages; we crossed the Atrato, where the river is wide, and has a fine appearance; and coming in sight of the whole place, which is on the right bank, we landed about nine

o'clock, having paddled down the same river as yesterday, but with its name changed to Quito.

On landing, one of the officers of the custom-house received me, conducting me to a lodging that had been prepared for me. Shortly after, Dr. Robert Key, an Englishman, who had been surgeon-major to General San Martin in Peru, came to visit me, and accompanied me to the house of the acting governor, Don Jose Maria de la Torre. I presented my passport, which he read, and returned; he then proffered every assistance in his power; but informed me that I had not any chance of getting away for a month. After half an hour's general conversation we retired; and then Dr. Key introduced me to the only English merchant in the place, a Mr. Higson, and his partner, a native of Jamaica, called Coutin, who has married a lady of Citera. I found Mr. Higson an agreeable, well-informed man. Dined with Dr. Key, and passed a pleasant evening, talking over the state of Peru and Chili, and making enquiries after the friends I had left there in 1820.

March 3d. Since my arrival I employed myself in writing up my journal, or in reading,

when my health would permit. I suffered much from intermittent fever, which attacked me on the day of my arrival, and returned every five or six days. I used quantities of bark, which ultimately cured me. The first few days I generally dined with Dr. Key, and passed the evening with Mr. Higson; but the Doctor left for Novita on the 20th ultimo, since which time I boarded in the house where he had lived, procuring there the best accommodation the place afforded, which is, however, but very miserable.

This place is far superior to Novita; and the climate, though warmer, is much more agreeable. The extremities of the town are composed of Indian huts, and a *quartel* for soldiers. The houses are boarded and wainscotted by flat laths, made of the guadua-tree. They are only one story high, and the floor raised four feet from the ground. This method of building renders the dwellings very insecure from depredation, as the guaduas are easily cut by a sharp knife, and the houses entered and plundered; which occurred several times during my stay. The offenders are generally known to be the soldiers of the garrison; but from the neg-

lect of the people in general, whose nature is indolent, no redress is obtained, and the delinquents escape with impunity. The soil is generally swampy, though there is a good deal of gravel on the banks and beach. There is society amongst the natives; but they are miserably poor, and much burthened, having to support one hundred and thirty soldiers, which requires eleven hundred dollars a month. I scarcely know where they find the money in their present impoverished state. It appears to me a very great injustice; and the chief people have petitioned the Congress for the removal of the troops.

I received letters from Bogotá, informing me that General Urdineta was appointed Governor of Maracaybo, and that Doctor Mayne would accompany him to that place, where he himself was appointed agent to the Pearl Fishery. Señor Rivero wrote me word, that on the 15th of January he should set out for the emerald mines of Muso, to remain there a month. The Congress was not expected to meet before the beginning of March, as a sufficient number of senators had not arrived.

I made enquiries about the *tierras baldías*

(lands having no proprietors), and learned that nearly all, from this place to the mouths of the Atrato, were *baldias;* but until you arrive within three days' journey of the entrance, there is no ground that could be cultivated; for, on landing on either bank, and walking fifty yards, you arrive at an impenetrable morass. About the river Sucio, which runs into the Atrato, three days' journey from the entrance, it is habitable, and there is a considerable quantity of fine land; but there the climate is from 82° to 86°, which will not suit European constitutions. I therefore wrote to my friend Mr. Jones, advising him to endeavour to get the government to change the grant made to his house, and fix in a more temperate spot.

I at last received information of a champana being in the river, and expected here on the 6th instant—so that I had hopes of escaping from this miserable place. Great would be the sufferings of this town, should a long drought take place; for the sun causing a rapid evaporation, would likewise rot the decayed vegetable substance, which would fill the air with effluvia so infectious, that many would die.

Fortunately for Chocó, the vegetable substance is kept almost perpetually wet, the sun not having sufficient time to absorb the moisture caused by one fall of rain, before another takes place. When two or three tolerably dry days happen, the heat becomes very oppressive, and every one is attacked with intermittent fever. On the return of the rain, however, the air is cleared, and the patients recover.

The only society they have here is on Sunday evening, when the whole town (that is, the respectable portion of it,) meet to dance. They have violin, flute, and drum; and dance Spanish country-dances and waltzes. Both men and women are particularly plain, indeed ugly, their countenances bearing strong proofs of the ravages of the climate. They have no education or manners; consequently, it may be imagined how agreeably I was situated, my only comfort being in spending my evenings with Mr. Higson, who is possessed of very general information.

The state of the mines in this neighbourhood is nearly the same as at Novita.

March 6th. About four o'clock in the afternoon, a salute of musquetry announced the

arrival of a champana from Carthagena. I immediately went down to see her, and found her a large, commodious boat, well suited for the river: she was coppered, and was the first boat of the kind that had that trouble taken with her, in consequence of which they found she came much easier up the river. Their cargo consisted of every kind of article, called by the North Americans a cargo of "notions." The market is, however, very dull here: it takes an age to sell off a very small stock; though, when paid, you get from one hundred to three hundred per cent. I did not obtain any news, as each person appeared wrapped up in his own particular business, without thinking about the rest of the world.

March 7th. Breakfasted very early with Mr. Higson, and set off with two negroes to the woods, in order to procure specimens of the Liria, or Palo de Vaca tree, and various shrubs, celebrated for curing the bites of snakes. We entered the woods in the rear of the town, preceded by a negro to clear the way with a machetta, and to look out for snakes, so as to advise us in time.

After an hour's walking, we found the Palo

de Vaca, and cut two large trees down; from them we procured three specimens of the leaves, and likewise some of the fruit; and on searching round about, discovered fine young plants of this species, and many varieties of other plants, chiefly *curandoes*, which are unknown in Europe. By noon we returned home, with a quantity of plants, and some of the milk of the cow-tree, which I cannot say I think particularly agreeable. The trees here are none of them very old, and, consequently, do not yield a great quantity of milk. The negroes of Escondie, on the shores of the Pacific, drink it in large quantities, and grow very fat upon it. I immediately turned to, and planted all the shoots, &c., in boxes, intending to carry them to Jamaica, and forward them thence to the Horticultural Society in London, with some *aracatcha* and *rascadera* roots which I had obtained. I did this so far as my own endeavours were concerned; but owing to the negligence of the captain of the vessel by whom they were sent, and the carelessness in not watering them whilst at the custom-house in London, they all died; which I regretted extremely, as they would have

formed a valuable addition to our collection, and I had bestowed great pains and care on them previously to their being forwarded to England.

During my excursion I did not meet with a single snake; which leads me to believe that they chiefly inhabit the banks of rivers; because, when a sudden increase of the waters takes place, snakes are brought down by the stream, and constantly land in the town, which makes it very dangerous to walk out at night without a lanthorn. Four persons were bitten lately near Mr. Higson's house, which is on the banks of the river. Two died from not getting the assistance of *curanderos* in time; and two recovered, after suffering great pain for two or three days. Immediately on being bitten, it is necessary to take a lancet and well open the part affected; get some person to suck the wound very dry; after which, tobacco leaves and rum should be applied, with the fresh leaves (if attainable) of the *guaduo* tree, pounded with the tendrils of the *guacha*, or, if not to be had fresh, the dried leaves, &c. must be used. This must be well bound round the wounded limb, and the patient should take

a strong dose of rhubarb and jalap; and afterwards, if he can procure a decoction of the *guacha*, it should be frequently drunk.

March 10th. Procured some milk, leaves, and a plant of the Sandi-tree, which corresponds very much with Baron Humboldt's cow-tree of Valencia; but the milk is not so agreeable as that of the Liria, or cow-tree of Chocó.

March 11th. Busily employed in making preparations for my voyage, as the patron of the boat had promised to sail on the morrow. Thermometer, at noon, generally about 80° or 82° of Farenheit; but there being almost a constant northerly wind, it considerably cools the air; besides more or less rain falling daily.

March 12th. The river had fallen during the night sufficiently to enable the patron to obtain ballast; and at five o'clock in the evening I bade farewell to my friends, and embarked for Carthagena. We saluted them with discharges of fire-arms, which they returned by waving their hats,—cheering not being a custom of the country. We soon lost sight of Citera, which I left without regret, as being a

place with but little society or amusement—in fact, almost destitute of the positive requisites of life.

The moon was up, and, guided by her brilliant beams, we continued our course, drifting down the noble river Atrato. The effect was excessively beautiful, either side of the river being thickly wooded by lofty trees, on whose foliage the moon's rays played and glittered. We were frequently assailed by the greetings of the inhabitants of the *ranchas* on the banks, which our noisy *peons* as often answered, and were responded to by the echoes of the woods breaking upon the stillness of the night, and then again sinking into profound silence and tranquillity. Towards midnight the fair moon became overcast, and a deluge of rain forced me to repair to my bed, which was made on some palm-planks, placed in the boat, over which there was a good canopy.

I slept but little, thinking of my approach to a civilized part of the world again, from which I had been separated since quitting Bogotá. Polished society is the charm of life! having this, what greater pleasure can man covet? and without it, life is "weary, stale,

flat, and unprofitable." The greatest punishment is to be deprived of social intercourse, after having tasted its sweets; but yet a short absence from it enhances its value, as we experience its want.

March 13th. A fine morning;—still descending the river, though slowly, as its waters were fast decreasing. Breakfasted on some good fish, called *denton*, caught by the *peons*, who were sent a-head in a canoe, with a cast net. We scarcely lost sight of huts; but the plantations cannot go into the interior above fifty yards, as the whole beyond that distance is morass. During the afternoon caught more fish; in four casts about two hundred boca chicas were obtained. Found the patron a well-behaved, sensible man, whose conversation and enquiries were much superior to any thing I could have expected from his rank in life.

We took in a considerable quantity of sugar-cane, of which the *peons* ate voraciously.

March 14th. Passed some high land on the right bank of the river; no other variety whatever, and no change of scene.

March 15th. During the night passed the

river Niapippi, which is badly laid down in the best charts, being at least one hundred and eighty miles below Citera, instead of close to it. This river is partly navigable, but the navigation very dangerous, and unfitted for commerce; and as for forming a canal, or iron railway, it is impossible—at least, I was informed so at Citera, by Major Alvarez, a Colombian officer, who crossed over to Panama by that route. He said that he found the river Niapippi shallow, rapid, and rocky; that the land carriage to Tupica was over three sets of hills; and that he could perceive no possibility of making a communication between the Niapippi and the Pacific Ocean; and from all the information I have been able to collect, I conceive that Baron Humboldt (who did not visit this spot himself) must have been misinformed on the subject of this communication with the Pacific Ocean.*

* I beg to subjoin the Baron's own words:—

"To the south-east of Panama, following the coast of the Pacific Ocean, from Cape St Miguel to Cape Corientes, we find the small port and bay of Tupica.

"The name of this bay has acquired celebrity in the king-

Shortly after daylight, we heard the noise of bogas advancing up the river. The patron immediately prepared his bow-swivel and his

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dom of New Grenada, on account of a new plan of communication between the two seas. From Tupica we cross, for five or six marine leagues, a soil quite level, and proper for a canal, which would terminate at the Embarcadero of the Rio Niassi. This last river is navigable, and flows below the village of Zitaro into the great Rio Atrato, which itself enters the Atlantic Sea. A very intelligent Biscayan pilot, M. Gogueneche, was the first who had the merit of turning the attention of government to the bay of Tupica, which ought to be for the new continent what Suez was formerly to Asia. M. Gogueneche proposed to transport the cacao of Guayaquil by the Rio Naipi to Carthagena. The same way offers the advantage of a very quick communication between Cadiz and Lima. Instead of despatching couriers by Carthagena, Santa Fé, and Quito, or by Buenos-Ayres and Mendoza, good quick-sailing packet-boats should be sent from Tupica to Peru. If this plan were carried into execution, the Vice-roy of Lima would have no longer to wait five or six months for the order of his court. Besides, the environs of the Bay of Tupica abound with excellent timber, fit to be carried to Lima. We might almost say that the ground between Tupica and the mouth of the Atrato, is the only part of all America in which the chain of the Andes is entirely broken.

" In the interior of the province of Chocó, the small ravine (Quebrada) de la Raspadura unites the neighbouring sources of the Rio de Noanama, called also Rio San Juan, and the small river Quito. The latter, the Rio Andageda, and the

flag, and on the appearance of a Colombian *flechéra* he saluted her, which she returned. The *flechéra* was small, and without cannon. Shortly after we spoke two merchant boats, or champanas, one empty and the other laden. They informed us, that it had been blowing very hard at sea, which had compelled one boat to throw her cargo overboard. At noon we stopped to obtain plantains, &c. for our sea-voyage, which might be from one to fifteen days, according to the wind. Further down the river than this, a proper supply of provisions cannot be procured.

March 16th. Early in the morning we land-

Rio Zitara form the Rio d'Atrato, which discharges itself into the Atlantic Ocean; while the Rio de San Juan flows into the South Sea. A monk of great activity, *curé* of a village 'near' Novita, employed his parishioners to dig a small canal on the ravine de la Raspadura; by means of which, when the rains are abundant, canoes loaded with cacao *pass from sea to sea.* This interior communication has existed since 1788, unknown in Europe. The small canal of Raspadura unites, on the coasts of the two oceans, two points seventy-five leagues distant from one another."

This communication can never become of great utility, from its distance, and the brief season of the year in which it is practicable.—C. S. C.

ed in the Vieja, where we had arrived during the night, and until daylight were terribly annoyed by the musquitoes. The Vieja is the last point in the river where there is any military force, which consists of eight men and a serjeant. This latter came on board, and examined all our passports. I visited the guard-house, which is miserable enough, but well situated on a narrow neck of land, round which the river winds, so that a boat has twice to pass the guard-house. From this spot we procured our masts and sails, which had been left here on the passage up, and having secured them on board, pushed off down the river; making but little progress, on account of the northerly winds being very strong, which made us sometimes nearly stationary, as our course was directly against the wind.

March 17th. Stopped at noon to cut wood. The *peons* set fire to some of the underwood, which spread rapidly, consuming a great part of the forest. This country is very peculiar—appearing to have been gradually left by the subsiding of the waters, and then to have increased by the accumulation of vegetable substance. It is now, when the river is at its

meridian, about two feet above the level of the water; but when the river rises it is entirely overflown, leaving the tops of the trees only in sight; and this kind of country, or rather lagoon, extends for hundreds of miles in every direction.

March 18th. It calmed a little during the night. Passing down the river we saw the high land inhabited by the Cuna Indians, of whom the boatmen were formerly much afraid, as they frequently waylaid them, and putting all the crew to death by a flight of arrows, captured the vessels, and carried off the booty. Now, however, they have made an amicable treaty, and boats have for some time passed without molestation.

March 19th. At daylight got the masts up, and prepared every thing for sea. About noon passed down to the mouth of the river called Barbacoa, which is one of the nine mouths belonging to the Atrato, and deemed the best, its general depth of water being four feet. The main mouth, called La Candeleria, is the deepest; but as there are several bad sand-banks in it, Barbacoa is preferred. At the entrance we were compelled to stop, as the wind

was blowing strong from the northward, and the sea breaking all across.

During the afternoon, the captain of two gun-boats came on board; his boats were discovered by chance by our little canoe;—they were anchored round a point, not far distant from us. The captain was a mulatto,—a good-humoured man, dressed in a chequered-shirt and duck trowsers. He informed us that he would give us convoy to a certain distance, as a piratical schooner was said to be on the coast.

Again attacked with intermittent fever, which I hoped I had escaped.

March 20th. Wind strong from the north. Told the captain that as the procession of the equinox would probably take place the following day, we might perhaps have a change of weather. At noon, however, not being contented with this hope, he began to collect money from all, amounting to nearly four dollars. This he placed in a purse, and tied to the mast-head, as a dedication to the Virgin. It was to be given to some clergyman in Carthagena, in order to say *misas*, in case we

should have a fair wind. I asked the patron what was to be done with the money if the wind continued foul; and reasoned with him on the egregious folly of the thing. He appeared much annoyed at first, and asserted that it was certain to do good; but at last he had nothing to say for himself, and went quietly away, doubtful even of his own ideas on the subject.

Notwithstanding the friendship with the Indians, the patron begged that all fires and lights should be extinguished at sunset, that we might not be discovered by any stray Indians; but yet, with all his precaution, he made no preparations in case they should come. I however kept my arms handy and in readiness for them, if they should attack us.

March 21st. Wind rather more moderate. Still detained, attached to the stump of a tree. In the evening took a little exercise on the beach; but was fearful of proceeding too far, as there was a good deal of jungle near, in which alligators and tigers could conceal themselves. The *peons* obtained some very good cocoa-nuts.

March 22d. Wind more to the westward; and moderating; but still too high to pass. The detention very annoying.

March 23d. The bar not breaking so high, got under weigh at daylight, and commenced poling out through the channel, which is very narrow. The wind and tide being the same way drove us down on the breakers, amongst the outer edges of which we got; fortunately they did not break over us: had they been a little heavier, we should have filled, and God knows if we should ever have reached the shore alive! The *peons* exerted themselves considerably; and at last we got clear out, to my great joy, as I had felt not a little uncomfortable for some time. We now made sail, and continued beating about until about half-past three, when we anchored behind a reef of rocks, without any reason that I could perceive, as we might have continued beating up all night. The men went on shore and procured cocoa-nuts.

March 24th. Weighed the previous evening at eleven, P. M., and beat up; wind east-north-east. At eleven o'clock, A. M., anchored to search for poles, close behind Punta-

Aréna. The men could not procure any; but found a pipe of very tolerable rum, driven on shore from some wreck, which they started into demi-johns, and brought on board; when, beginning to drink it, they soon became intoxicated.

"March 25th. Weighed anchor at daylight, and beat round Puerto-Aréna, where the wind became fair; shaped our course between the heavy breakers that lay about four miles to windward of the eastern point of Punta-Aréna:—they appeared very awful, especially as we had to pass near, and a sudden change of wind would have thrown us on them. Before dark, came in sight of the small island of Fuerto, and continued beating up all night towards the islands of San Bernardo.

March 26th. At eight, A. M., passed the islands of San Bernardo, which lie a long way out from the coast, and are very low and dangerous. The breeze freshening, we soon gained the island of Baru, and passing up on the inside, arrived at an apparently complete stoppage, composed of brushwood, growing out of a marshy lagoon. Here we shortened sail and took to our poles; when, by going

round a small point, we came to a narrow canal, the course of which winds like a labyrinth through this marshy country. I observed quantities of small oysters attached to the bushes. We passed a good many market-boats coming from Carthagena. About four o'clock we came to an anchor inside of a palisadó, which the Spaniards formerly raised to prevent the entrance of the patriots.

Here is a small village, the former outpost of the Spaniards. Finding that the boat was to remain here all night, I hired a canoe, the men promising to take me up to Carthagena in three hours; instead of which I did not arrive before midnight; when, coming alongside the wharf, on which the guard-house stood, I hailed the centinel on duty, and slipping a dollar into his hand, climbed over the outer palisado. On entering the guard-house, I saw a fire blazing, round which the men, wrapped in their *roanas*, were sleeping—their arms piled up in a corner: some of them started up on my entrance;—and on my requesting the serjeant to procure me admittance to the town, (which is fortified,) and backing my solicitations by a douceur, I was informed that they were themselves with-

out the walls, and never roused the inhabitants or sought for entrance after nine o'clock, unless on some particular emergency; but that I was perfectly welcome to take up my abode with them for the night. As they were all miserably dirty, and the place had a most uninviting aspect, I declined the proffered civility, trusting to my good stars to procure me a better bed and shelter than that afforded by a *toana* laid along the floor of a filthy guard-house. I returned to my boat, and rowed alongside many of the vessels in the harbour, hailing them, and trusting to find an English ship amongst them. At last, in reply to my question, my ears were saluted by the welcome sounds of my own language, and not the less esteemed for partaking of a strong north-country accent;—they proved to be uttered by a Scotchman left in charge of a vessel, who gave me the best reception in his power, spreading sails for my couch, and offering me bread and cheese and a glass of grog for my supper; after which I lay down, having an awning over me, and slept soundly until morning.

CHAPTER XIX.

CARTHAGENA — MONTILLA — SHOOTING EXCURSION — SANTA MARTHA — JAMAICA — GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

March 27th. At daylight the captain of the vessel came off with the owner, and were not a little surprised to see me. They behaved very politely, and regaled me with coffee; after which I went on shore, and took up my abode at a French inn, kept by Aveline, Bonote. Shortly after several merchants waited on me. I found my old acquaintance Mr. Elbers and Colonel Le Lieu here. In the evening I called on Mr. Watts, the British Consul, whom I found a very agreeable man. He had lately left Italy; so that the change to this place was felt very much by him, there being but little society here.

March 28th. Dined with the Consul; and

was introduced to the conductors of the firm of Hislop and Company, and a Mr. Rennie, a Scotchman, just come out with arms for the republic, and on his way to Bogotá, to endeavour to procure some grants from the government. He said (in which I concur) that the speculators that will come out to this country, the moment it is recognised by Europe, will be very numerous. There is much money at present unemployed in England, and this country is so rich, and affords such ample scope for enterprise, with every prospect of success, that people with unemployed capital will resort hither, and eventually find their advantage, as capital alone is wanted to secure a golden harvest to any undertaking that is conducted with steadiness and energy.—No general news stirring.

March 29th. Called on the various authorities, and was politely received. General Montilla, the governor, was from home. Received letters from Bogotá, informing me of the arrival of the English commissioners. Hourly hoping for arrivals from England, with the latest intelligence; also, in expectation of the Isis frigate from Chagues, bound to Ja-

maica, commanded by my old friend Captain Forrest.

March 30th. Waited on General Montilla at nine o'clock; found him at breakfast: he was very agreeable, spoke a good deal in English, and entered very generally into conversation for an hour; after which I took my leave, having received an invitation to dine with the General the next day, at five o'clock. — Employed in writing letters. — Dined with the Consul; and in the evening rode out through the barriers, which are very strong on the land side, but very weak to the seaward, there not being even a ditch; and the works may very easily be scaled from the sea side, by landing in flat-bottomed boats—there being no obstacle whatever, except a few large stones, placed formerly by the Spaniards in order to cause a surf, but between which boats may land: the inner and outer fortifications are divided by water and drawbridges. The town outside the main works is half the size of Carthagena. San Filipe, called also San Lazaro, celebrated from the attack Admiral Vernon made on it, is close to the town, and commands it: it is very strong, but commanded

by La Papa, a height which likewise commands the town, but is not fortified, which is unaccountable, as it has several times been the cause of the fall of Carthagena, without almost a single shot being fired. The Colombians have now some idea of fortifying it; but at present there is a monastery at the top.—Obliged to return very early from our ride, as the outer gate shuts about half-past six: the communication between the two towns is, however, left open all night.—Played whist with the Consul in the evening.

March 31st. Rose at daylight, and accompanied a party to see the Papa—a very agreeable ride. The height of the Papa is about five hundred and sixty feet above the sea, and its summit is reached by a winding road through brushwood. On arriving we dismounted. I found a large brass eighteen-pounder lying there, that had been brought by Morillo; the remains of a fascine, and mud battery, erected by Bolivar, when he attacked Carthagena. The position is most commanding, and easily to be defended by a small force. Had Admiral Vernon landed a few cannon, and had them dragged here by a body

of seamen, he must have captured the place, as the possessors of this point will always be masters of the city.

On standing on the highest eminence of the Papa, the view is most extensive, eliciting great admiration from the spectator, whose eye wanders over a vast tract of country. He sees beneath him the port of San Filipe, about one hundred and fifty feet above the town, commanding the fortifications; Carthagena, situated on a peninsular slip of land, and the outer town, almost as large as the city itself, on an island communicating with the town by a bridge. A large extent of ocean is beheld, together with the excellent harbour of Carthagena, enlivened by all varieties of boats, sloops, merchant ships, frigates, &c.—some at anchor, others in motion, forming a scene of busy interest, pleasing to the eye, and giving scope for reflection. Commerce here is as yet in its infancy; but the facilities afforded by its situation must inevitably render Carthagena a place of great commercial resort and trade.

The navy, too, will be here fostered and encouraged; and every stimulus given to render Colombia famed for commerce, skill, and bra-

very; arsenals, dock-yards, &c., are to be built here, and nothing neglected that can tend to the advantage of the country, and the securing of its tranquillity.

On the summit, at the western extremity of the eminence, is the Augustin Convent of Nuestra Señora de la Popa, which was formerly very rich, having had a Virgin similar to that of Chiquinquera. At one time, when the small-pox had raged in Carthagena to an alarming extent, and for a considerable time, the friars waited until an entire change of the weather took place; they then paraded the Virgin, and gained ten thousand dollars. The alteration in the weather checked the disease, and the poor inhabitants were made to believe it was by the power of the Virgin. This figure was however stolen, and sent over to St. Domingo, where she sold for forty thousand dollars.—I saw the room where Bolivar was sitting during the siege, when a shot entering at the window, shattered the shutter, passed over his head, struck the wall, bounded back, and then striking the side wall, bounced out at another window, without doing Bolivar any injury.

The monastery is now almost in ruins, and is tenanted by one solitary friar, who occasionally makes a little money, by letting one or two rooms to people who wish to enjoy cooler air than that of the town, which would be insufferable, were it not for an almost constant sea-breeze; notwithstanding which, a cloth coat, or even a linen neckcloth, can scarcely be borne. Carthagena appears entirely surrounded by marshes, and is yet very healthy, on account of a rise and fall of about two feet of tide, which runs into the marshy land. In the distance high land is perceptible, and some rising ground towards Boca Chica, which is a great distance from the anchorage. Men-of-war sometimes anchor off the north-side of the city, in the open roadstead, and send their boats in through Boca Grande, having previously obtained permission of the governor. So great was the fear of the Spaniards, lest they should be surprised by a foreign enemy, that they would rarely allow the boats to use this passage, wishing to keep all foreigners in ignorance of such an entrance; and, as an additional means of preventing vessels from passing in by this mouth, they sunk

several ships, which blocked it up, only allowing sufficient depth for row-boats. There is no doubt that the Colombians will now remove these impediments to the entrance, by the use of proper machinery to raise the stones and weigh the vessels which contain them; which being done, the current will soon carry off the accumulation of sand, and afford easy access to the city, by the Boca Grande, to vessels bound to the port. In consequence of the blocking up of this entrance, ships are compelled to go round by Boca Chica, a circuit of thirty miles, to gain the usual roadstead for frigates, and which is three or four miles from the town. If a jetty were thrown out, or a chain-pier erected, on the north side of the city, which is very feasible, constant communication might be kept up between vessels lying at anchor on that side of the town, and landing easily effected.

Returned to breakfast, much pleased with my ride. At five o'clock went to the palace, accompanied by Mr. Rennie, and Mr. George Watts, the consul's son. We were received very politely by General Montilla, who was dressed in plain clothes. Several of the first

people were assembled to meet us,—amongst others, Count Adalacruitz, son of a Swedish marshal. He is employed here at the head of the cavalry department, and is reckoned a good officer. I found him an agreeable and gentlemanly person, and very attentive to foreigners. About an hour after our arrival, dinner was announced, which I found very good, and served up something in the English style. Every thing, however, was placed on the table at once, and consequently a great part of the dinner became cold. The conversation was general, but turned more on good living than any thing else. When we had concluded our meal, we took a general *briezo*,* and then rising, went to walk in a broad cool balcony for about half an hour, during which time the table was cleared, and replenished with preserves, fruit, and wine. I found the rise very agreeable, as we stretched our legs, got cool, and had a fresh appetite on sitting down again. The dessert finished, we again adjourned, and afterwards returned to take coffee, and liqueurs, when we broke up for

* A glass of wine, drunk by the whole party.

the night, it being about nine o'clock. On the whole, I was pleased with the party. Montilla was facetious, and did his utmost to make himself agreeable, in which he succeeded extremely well. On the 5th of April Captain Forrest arrived, on board the Isis, and in the afternoon came on shore. I was delighted to meet my old friend, who was astonished to see me in Carthagena.

On the 8th, Mr. Rennie, Mr. Isaacs, Mr. Miers, and myself, made a pic-nic shooting-party with the officers of the Isis. We slept on board the frigate the evening before, and started at daylight next morning, having taken a hasty breakfast previously; and landing at Señor Lazaro de Herrera's estate, we divided into parties, and commenced operations. At nine o'clock we all assembled to a second breakfast, with a very motley show of game, the best being three quails, shot by my companion Mr. Rennie, and myself. Mirth and laughter presided at our meal, which we all enjoyed; each telling his merry joke, and each joining heartily in the laugh it raised. After our breakfast, which was infinitely better than our sport, we turned into our hammocks, and

slept until one o'clock, when Mr. Rennie succeeded most effectually in dispelling sleep by a series of practical jokes. He placed a small donkey, as a bedfellow, beside Mr. Miers, who was aroused by the ungentle caresses of the animal; which displeased at its novel situation, began to kick, and awoke Mr. Miers from his gentle slumber, amidst the laughter of all his companions, who did not fail to make a few jokes on the occasion, which were received with much good temper. Mr. Rennie's next feat was to awaken Mr. Isaacs, which he did most completely, by shooting a pigeon which was roasting over that gentleman's hammock. We now all rose, finding that no chance of being allowed to repose any longer was left us. I bought all the pigeons I could procure, and proposed a pigeon-match for the amusement of the party. This was acceded to; and, after a general competition of skill, it was decided in favour of the first lieutenant of the Isis, as the best shot. At two, we sat down to dinner, being joined by Captain Forrest; and in the cool of the afternoon we again started in search of game. I saw a great many large snipes, but could not

kill any. Returning homewards, my guide led me to a spot which was sometimes the resort of wild deer: at the moment, fortunately for me, one was grazing there, which I killed with buck-shot, hitting her in the neck. She was a beautiful young animal, in good condition. I carried her down in triumph, and was allowed by general acclamation to be the most fortunate man of the day. The principal spoil of the rest of the party consisted of Muscovy ducks, tame cocks, barn-door fowls, &c. which they had shot, because they could procure no sport in the field, and therefore took their revenge on the domestic poultry. Every thing was however paid for, and the cottagers requested us to return and visit them again at some future period. We then embarked; and, on reaching the ship, sat down to a good supper in the gun-room of the Isis, where we canvassed our exploits, and terminated a day of pleasure and conviviality.

Lancasterian schools are established through the country; there is one at Carthagena already. There are but few priests here, as an order from the government has compelled the

majority to go to the capital; but these few have yet some influence.

In the year 1822, part of the town of Mahates (situated on the mail-road between Carthagena and Barranca) was burnt down, and the church reduced to ashes. A gentleman having lost his house in the conflagration, was going to build one of stone or brick; but the people were opposed to it, influenced, of course, by the priests. They called a *Cabildo* to meet, and, according to an ancient Spanish law, it was decided that nobody could build a house with stones or brick, when the church was not built of these materials; because it would be considered as an insult to religion, if the church was constructed of straw or wood, and private houses erected composed of better materials.

There are several churches and a cathedral here: the object most worthy of remark in the latter is a handsome white-marble pulpit. It also contains a few tolerable paintings.

The want of good water is a great inconvenience at Carthagena. In the dry season there is a great scarcity of this requisite, and the inhabitants are frequently obliged to

send a considerable distance for a needful supply. Every house has a tank for the water, which is filled by the falling of the rain; and consequently, in a time of drought, when the periodical rains are later than usual, the inhabitants are greatly distressed. Wells have been sunk in places—but the water is brackish, and only used when necessity compels.

The house in which the Inquisition carried on their pious duties and humane functions, has been bought upon speculation, and let off for government offices. The instruments by which the worthy members of this Holy Inquisition enforced their mild doctrines are hidden, and now rarely exposed to sight.

Leprosy formerly prevailed here to a great extent, but has disappeared greatly of late years. During a close and long siege of Carthagena by the Spaniards, the city was reduced to great distress:—horses, mules, and dogs were eaten; multitudes died, and amongst the first the lepers expired,—and their number now in the hospital is thirty-two only.

The main trade has been carried on at Santa Martha, on account of the facilities afforded to the contraband traffic; but since the Colom-

bians have organized the system of the custom-house, the people of the interior are less inclined to go there.* It is true that Santa Mar-

* "The department of the Magdalena comprehends the provinces of Rio Hacha, Santa Martha, and Carthagena.

"The provinces of Rio Hacha and Santa Martha, being separated by no mutual boundary or characteristic, we shall consider as one tract of country. It occupies about two degrees of longitude, and one and a half of latitude; is bounded to the west and east by the rivers Magdalena and Rio Hacha, and to the north and south by the ocean, and that part of the chain of the Andes which traverses the province of Ocana. It is, besides, intersected by the beautiful and lofty ridge, called the *Sierra Nevada*, or Snow Mountains of Santa Martha, whence descend numerous streams which water it in every direction. It is on these streams, several of which are navigable for some distance, and betwixt this ridge of mountains and the sea, a foreign settlement might, in my opinion, be most advantageously established; the lands are unoccupied, with the exception of two small villages of peaceful and inoffensive Indians: they are eminently fertile, and capable of producing abundantly cocoa, coffee, cotton, sugar-cane, indigo, rice, tobacco, maize, and all kinds of fruits and vegetables. There are large tracts of pasture lands, of excellent quality, for raising cattle. The climate is healthy, and the settler has the advantage, by ascending into the mountains, of choosing a temperament congenial to his constitution, and affording him every production of the temperate zone. The sea abounds in fish, and the woods with game and wild fowl. The city and port of Santa Martha are on the left, the village of Camerones and port of Rio

tha is at present better adapted than Carthagena for the introduction of goods into the interior; but Carthagena will eventually become

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Hacha on the right,—the latter within four or five hours' ride or sail, and affording a market as well for produce raised, as for every article of consumption required in the colony; add to which advantage, that the settler may be brought from Europe and landed on the very spot he intends to cultivate. The trade of Brazil wood might also be rendered a very profitable speculation in the province of Rio Hacha, with a capital of about one thousand pounds, to be laid out in the purchase of mules to convey it from the interior to the Rio Hacha market. Another tract of country, scarcely less advantageous, lies betwixt the Ocana and Santa Martha mountains, to the north and south, and the towns of El Valle and Chiriguana to the east and west. It communicates with the Magdalena by a series of small lakes, with the interior by the Ocana mountains, and with the sea-coast by Santa Martha and Rio Hacha. It contains a length of about thirty leagues, with an indefinite breadth, towards the mountains, of alternate woods and savannahs, watered by abundant streams. The climate, though warm, is healthy, and untroubled by the insects which swarm near the great rivers. Betwixt Chiriguana and the Indian village of the Cienaga, on the sea-coast, near Santa Martha, is a third tract, of almost uninhabited country, extending about seventy leagues from north to south, nearly covered with superb forests, and abounding with lands of excellent quality, especially on the rivers, which descend from the snow-mountains into the Lake of Cienaga. The river Magdalena forms the western boundary; the few villages and farms scattered

the preferable port, when the *dique* or canal now making, is rendered navigable, by which a water communication will be effected, from Carthagena into the Magdalena, during the

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over it, though not numerous enough to impede fresh settlements, are sufficient to afford them such aid as their infant state necessarily requires.

"The province of Carthagena contains excellent lands, especially on the banks of the Magdalena, the advantages and disadvantages of which have been already stated. There is, however, one spot which peculiarly claims attention; this is the port of Savanilla, at the mouth of the Magdalena. The lands here are finely timbered, and the temperature refreshed by strong breezes; but the principal advantage consists in its being the natural port of the Magdalena, in which capacity, there is little doubt, it will one day become the emporium of the whole trade of the interior; though it is closed at present, by order of the government, for the purpose of favouring Santa Martha, which would be abandoned, should commerce be left to its natural channel—the communication with the latter being troublesome and circuitous, through the canals which unite with the Cienaga; whereas Savanilla is the mouth of the river itself. Its chief defect as a port is the shallowness of the river immediately above it, which is caused by the number of mouths through which the Magdalena discharges itself into the ocean; even flat-boats, when loaded, have, in the dry season, some difficulty in ascending from Savanilla to Baranquilla. It is probable this defect might be remedied by closing up the mouth called *Boca Viega;* but the country is not at present ripe for such an undertaking."—*Colonel F. Hall's Pamphlet on Colombia.*

whole of the year; but at present it can only be passed four or six months in the year. From Carthagena the goods go by water to Mahates, are landed, and proceed by mules or asses to Barranca, where they are shipped on board Champans, and go as far as Honda. Carthagena will then offer more security to the property deposited, in case of invasion; and less risk in the passage to the Magdalena, than Santa Martha. In the year 1823, five large *bongos* were lost in crossing the bar, at the entrance of the Cienega. From December to April the current runs strong; and the constant wind from the north-east blowing hard, makes a heavy sea on the bar, which prevents the *bongos* from passing through without difficulty. By the way of Carthagena, the goods are more protected, and not exposed to the plunder of the Indians, as they are at Santa Martha by going through the Cienega.

Mr. Elbers, a German gentleman, possessed of great enterprise, has an exclusive grant for navigating the Magdalena with steam-boats for a period of twenty years; and has likewise undertaken to complete the water communication from Carthagena to Magdalena; so

that steam-boats may take in their cargoes at that port, and proceed to Piñon de Conejos, about two days' journey below Honda; and from thence a good mule-road is to be made to Bogotá. When the whole of this is carried into effect, it will tend materially to increase the commerce with the interior, as the steam-carriage will be more certain, more expeditious, and less expensive than the present mode.

This will likewise much improve the agriculture, which is not at present in a very flourishing condition. Coffee grows at Guadua on the Magdalena, or in the vicinity, in small quantities, and is sold at about eight dollars per quintal. The planter is well satisfied by that price.

Sugar is sold at between three and four dollars per quintal.

Flour, raised in small quantities at Ocaña, might be bought at the rate of two dollars per barrel.

These articles, and many others, are not cultivated in abundance; because the charges for bringing them down to the sea-ports are too heavy, and the many delays prejudicial to

the merchandise, which is frequently shifted from boat to boat. Goods may not now be packed beyond a certain bulk, nor weighing more than two hundred pounds :—this will be remedied by the introduction of steam-boats. Articles of exportation between Carthagena and Santa Martha are, cotton in quantity, good staple, but badly cleaned; fustic, a Brazil wood, in abundance; cacao, hides, bark, ipecacuanha, and sarsaparilla.

The hospital of San Lazaro, situated on the island of Tierra Bomba, in the bay of Carthagena, has been re-opened by the Colombians for the lepers, who are attended by a doctor, and nourished with the best the country can afford.

Here are two hospitals; one under the care of the females of San Juan de Dios, and the other under that of the city; but, owing to the revolution, they are in a neglected state.

On the 11th, Captain Forrest came on shore, and we went together to take leave of General Montilla. At twelve we embarked; and as soon as the people had dined, weighed anchor, and proceeded down to Boca Chica; but could

not get out, as the wind was foul, and there is no room for working.

April 12th. Got close into the narrows, wind still foul. The entrance is very small, and well defended by two batteries, which, however, with a fine strong breeze, may be easily passed without sustaining much damage.

April 13th. A land-breeze springing up about noon, we weighed anchor and stood out. On clearing the shoals we shaped our course for Santa Martha. About sunrise the sea-breeze commenced, obliging us to beat all the way to Santa Martha, where we arrived on the 17th, having split most of the sails, and badly sprung the fore-yard. The change of leaving the sea-breeze to enter the small harbour of Santa Martha was very striking; from being very cool and comfortable, it seemed like entering into a heated oven, where you were surprised that any one could live. The governor sent off an invitation for us to attend a procession of the Virgin Mary, which would give us an opportunity of seeing all the beauties of Santa Martha. In the evening we went on shore, and took up a position whence we could view the procession, which had not

much female beauty to boast of: as for the procession itself, it was only a repetition of what we had so often seen before—a childish display of tawdry finery, accompanied by all the imposing pomp of the Romish church, which endeavours to impress its religion by dazzling the eye rather than by improving the heart. We visited Mr. Miers and Colonel Rainbow, and then returned to the frigate to supper.

April 18th. Colonel Rainbow, his wife, and sister-in-law breakfasted on board, and at eleven we were visited by the Deputy-governor and several officers, who came to see the ship, and take a second breakfast. They were much gratified by the inspection, and went away highly delighted with their visit. At seven in the evening we weighed, with a fair wind, having received some freight on board, which made the whole sum amount to two hundred and thirty thousand dollars. As soon as we got out we found it blowing hard; so much so, that we were obliged to close reef the topsails. On the 19th, we fell in with the Colombian frigate Venezuela, Captain Chitty,

with an English schooner under convoy;—spoke her; all well.

April 30th. Anchored in Port-Royal, Jamaica, just before sunset.

During the leisure afforded by my voyage, so different from the daily toil and bustle in which I had been perpetually engaged whilst in Colombia, I had ample scope and time for reflection on all I had seen of the country, and its advantages, soil, climate, extent, population, internal government, and resources; and I throw my ideas on paper, as they naturally occurred to me, without asserting that all my arguments are correct, or my positions undeniable; only claiming the right to be believed until I am proved to be wrong.

This Republic, including the Isthmus of Panama, comprehends the north-west division of South America, extending to the fifth degree of latitude south of the Andes, and to the British settlement of Essequibo to the eastward. Its extent on the coast of the Atlantic is two thousand miles, and on that of the Pacific twelve hundred. It has a surface of nine hundred thousand square miles. Its ports in both seas are excellent, and its communication

from the interior with the ocean, or with navigable rivers, for the most part practicable. This tract of country is but thinly populated in proportion to its size. An extent of territory, capable of maintaining a hundred million souls, comprehends little more than two millions and a half. It is divided into twelve departments, which are sub-divided into thirty-one provinces. The government consists of a senate, or upper chamber, of fifty members, elected for eight years; and a house of representatives, or lower chamber, of ninety-five members elected for four years.

Here we have a country rich in every natural advantage of soil, climate, and situation; abounding in scenery of indescribable beauty; and these possessions further enhanced by the liberty and independence secured to it. But these rare and precious gifts are but too often bestowed on a population deficient in every moral energy, and devoid of that laudable ambition, which urges man to seek to better his condition in this world. The richness of this fine country affords a continual and striking contrast with the poverty of the inhabitants. A strenuous effort must be made by the go-

vernment to change the habits of the people; to rouse them, from mental and bodily inactivity, to reflection and industry; to incite them, from careless inertness, to habits of vigorous exertion, and a taste for the conveniences of life. This course would be diametrically opposed to the system pursued by the old masters of the country. To extinguish the first spark of genius that might stimulate them to rise above their degraded condition, and to keep them in darkness, with respect to the more ameliorated state of the rest of the world, was the crooked policy of Old Spain. To effect this debasement, they exerted every means—but all proved unavailing; and the very measures adopted to keep the people under constraint and degradation, had a precisely contrary result to that proposed. One main cause was the improper needy characters selected to send out to the colonies; who bought their situations, or were poor members of some noble family, and who went out with no other view than to amass riches. Many of these keen and crafty characters, observing that no European produce (except that coming through Spain) was permitted to be brought

into the country, immediately formed the project of a regular contraband trade; and as all the officers of the government were, more or less, to be bought, a certain share given them, not only insured their silence, but secured their assistance. Thus a regular smuggling trade was instituted with Jamaica, as the chief point on the Atlantic side, and with the Pacific, by means of fast-sailing armed merchant-vessels, fitted out for the "forced trade," as it was very properly termed. At the same time that valuable and useful commodities were introduced, a knowledge of the Old World came, and the natives began to compare the condition of other people with their own. Led thus to reflection on their state, its degradation soon became apparent and deeply felt. They roused themselves from the subjugation, and by a lengthened and desperate struggle threw off the yoke for ever.

Spain, by her heartless cruelty and despotism, thus hastened a rebellion, which a sounder system of government and milder treatment would have averted; and she would have insured those vast and valuable districts for a much longer period. But by grasping

insatiately at too much, she has lost all; for I do not see the remotest chance of the mother-country regaining a permanent footing in South America.

Many of the villages of this country afford, too often, pictures of human misery and wretchedness, which it is next to impossible to conceive. One of the worst features I have observed in the character of the lower and more numerous class of the natives, is, that they appear contented with the abject misery in which they live. There is no elasticity, no spring. Humiliated by the privations and abuses to which they have been subjected under the Spanish government, and partaking in a peculiar degree of that extreme docility of disposition, which they inherit from their Indian ancestors, they have nothing of that air of independence, of that insolence (if I may be allowed the word) which in other countries usually denotes the consciousness of being free.

To remedy these defects, to inspire the people with a desire to turn the advantages of their soil and climate to their own advancement, is, I imagine, practicable only by means of the rising generation; and the first step to

this is education. For those who may judge their age as presenting insurmountable obstacles to instruction and improvement, little farther I believe can be done, than to afford them the opportunities of mending their actual condition, by placing within their reach some of the comforts of life, and by lightening the imposts on articles so denominated, so as to secure them to the lower classes at moderate prices. Money should be lent by the government to industrious individuals; and as such persons could never be at a loss for respectable guarantees, the money advanced would be secure.

Of the advantages to be derived from the introduction of European colonists into the country, the government seems to be sufficiently persuaded. The natural advantages of Colombia are very great, and with cultivation might be increased tenfold. The surface of the soil is rich beyond imagination, only requiring attention and agriculture to yield every seed and grain in abundance. The mines may be made valuable, when worked by machinery, and placed under proper management. There is material for every handi-

craft, and means for forming all articles of necessity or luxury. The finest clay is to be procured for making earthenware; and a herb which has been proved equal to kelp in making glass. The soil of Lima is admirably adapted for vineyards;—in fact, there is every thing in every branch that a speculator could wish to turn to: only hands, machinery, and capital are needed. Mechanics are greatly wanted; every material is at hand, and only needs being wrought to return great profit. Turners, carpenters, blacksmiths, engineers, weavers, &c. &c. every class of working people, would find ample employ, and reap more than adequate profit.

Their numerous mines of gold, silver, platina, copper, and salt, must be turned to due advantage; the internal communications, and that with the out-ports, facilitated by improving the roads, and introducing steamboats for water carriage,—and then with a few years of peace, in my judgment, this country will rank amongst the richest and most productive nations of the world.

And what a change may then be produced in the relative value of the precious metals,

with regard to articles of consumption! For instance, taking corn as a standard,—the quantity of this commodity will increase and decrease, generally speaking, relatively to the increase and decrease of population, and consequently may be considered a fair standard. The precious metals are not, however, subject in the same degree to fluctuation from this cause;—they depend more on the general state of the relations of one part of the world with the other, that is, on war or peace. In the former, capital finds employment, and interest of money is higher; in the latter, there is not the same demand for money. The interest therefore falling, induces a great part of mankind to enter into various speculations and enterprises, in order to obtain a greater return for their money. The consequence is, that large capitals will be embarked in working the already known mines in South America, and in discovering others. Thus a supply of the precious metals will be brought into the market, proportionate to the capital, enterprise, and ability employed; which, from the known richness of the mines of South America, must greatly increase the quan-

tity, in proportion to any possible rise in the value of corn, from the progressive augmentation of population. Therefore the price of the precious metals must fall, as there will be a superabundant quantity in the market; and I hardly think it too much to say, that within the next fifteen years, gold will be depreciated ten, and silver twenty-five per cent. Platina may then possibly become a coin, and of superior value to gold, for it is possessed of many advantages. It is of greater specific gravity, more difficult to cut or clip, and cannot be adulterated by the addition of any other metal without lessening its weight—so that adulteration is easily detected; and the process of making it fusible, in order to turn it into coin, is so very expensive, that no individual would be induced to imitate the standard coin. It is scarcer than gold; and I believe as yet the only part of the world where it has been found, is the province of Chocó, in Colombia. The only drawback, therefore, is the colour, which is less brilliant than silver.

The facility with which the people throughout the country receive foreigners, is sin-

gular, considering their Spanish origin. I have often arrived benighted at some lonely cottage, after all its inmates had retired to bed. To state that I was an Englishman in search of a place of lodging, was quite enough to secure me an immediate and often cordial reception.

It is my opinion, that when the war ceases, the people of this country will find a federal form of government best suited to their interest, their happiness, and the geographical peculiarities of their country. This republic is too extensive; its parts too widely separated; too much divided by natural and almost impassable barriers,—for the continuation of centralism. I much doubt whether a pilgrimage to Mecca could not be performed with greater ease, by the inhabitants of Barcelona, Cumana, and other distant points, comprehended in the Republic of Colombia, than a journey to their capital. Each department should have its legislative and judicial body. In any of the extremities of the Republic, a man suffering grievance which may make an appeal to the Congress, or Executive, indispensable; and knowing, in all probability, that mere writing

is useless — would be liable, when he contemplates the distance, fatigues, expense, and delay, to relinquish in despair the hope of restitution or redress. This must naturally engender discontent and disaffection; and I am glad to observe that the Congress is seriously turning its thoughts to a remedy for this evil, and has already decided on the establishment of a superior court of justice in every department; taking care to prevent the nomination of any of the members of these courts from falling upon the natives of any of the towns in which they may be established, in order that the administration of justice may not be perverted, which might arise from ties of relationship, feelings of party, or consideration of personal interest. I consider this to be the stepping-stone to that system, which, I doubt not, future experience will prove to be necessary.

I however have my doubts (though the intention is good) whether the system of excluding these towns, in which the highest court of justice is situated, from sending members will do any good, or indeed whether it will not do harm; for one is naturally led to

suppose, that the chief town or capital of a department is the most convenient and suitable place for the court to be held; and not according to the present law, whereby the capital, if chosen, cannot send members. The consequence will be, that the weight of the interest of the capital will cause some town very near it to be named, and by this means the court will be as much under the influence of the capital as if it were situated in it; and it will, in any event, cause more inconvenience, expense, and delay, than if in the capital. In my opinion, the best check, and almost the only one necessary, is the freedom of the press as now established. Should a court be notoriously unjust, its actions will be held up to the noonday light, and public opinion will soon cause the members to be deprived of their high office, and fix on them that odium which ought to be the lot of every unjust and partial judge throughout the world.

The federal system, I conceive, will certainly cause the republic to be much more durable than the present plan of centralism, where appeals for justice are to come from all parts of the country; but I am very doubtful

if a federal republican government be suited to the great mass of the people. From what I have seen of them, I consider the lower orders, or grand mass of the population, to be more adapted for a monarchy than a republic. They are quiet, tractable people, fond of show and amusement: they have no jealous feelings of liberty and equality; rather preferring a superior to look up to, who may give them advice, and who may be more competent to judge what is good for their interest, than they are themselves.

And this may easily be conceived, when we consider that the labouring class as yet have not in the least bettered their condition by the revolution. Many of them (the male part) have been swept away, and their wives and children remain in a state of almost starving misery, cursing the revolution, that has reduced them to such a situation; and the great majority drag out a miserable existence, because the rich Don, who could before employ them, and pay them for their labour, is gone; and no one is present with means able to supply the place—consequently, as yet the peasant has gained nothing by the revolution, because, al-

though many useful articles of common life are as cheap again as they were formerly, he yet cannot purchase them, not being able to find any one who can pay him for his labour. At present, therefore, he chiefly supports himself by the ground around his house, where he sows his Indian-corn and vegetables, which, with carefully rearing a few pigs, maintains him, with but little labour, throughout the year.

The peasant is therefore not aware that he has changed from a bad, oppressive government, to a good and liberal one. He only sees through things as they affect him personally and practically; he is now, therefore, in a worse condition than he was before: but this is not to last; and when money becomes plentiful, and European capital and industry are introduced, he will eventually reap the fruits of long years of suffering.

Far different is the state of the upper class—by much the smaller portion of the inhabitants of the country: they, from being oppressed and despised, have risen into political consequence and independence. They now perceive that every, the highest, office of govern-

ment, is within their reach, if they possess sufficient ability to obtain it;—they feel also, that they are free, and that their property cannot be taken away from them;—they find themselves to be something in the scale of the world, and are possessed of the civil liberty so long denied them.

The change to a free commerce is already felt by them, as they are enabled to employ to advantage what money the revolution has left them, not only in making purchases at a cheaper rate than formerly, of things necessary to their own comfort, but in being able to lay out their money in commercial speculations. As they become rich, and have more capital to lay out, money will flow in multiplied channels; and the lower classes will obtain gradual and permanent employment; every day will improve their state, and Colombia will be a most rich and flourishing country.

Mankind are fond of extremes; and we find that, where a government is overturned, the people fly from a despotic and absolute power, to a republican form of government, and *vice versa*, as history invariably testifies. But let

the public feeling of the moment subside, and then we do not find every people — indeed, I may say very few, or scarcely any, suited to a republic; and I decidedly think, the day will come, when Colombia will find herself happier under a limited monarchy than she will ever be as a republic, where jealousy and personal envy must be kept alive by the highest offices of the state being open nominally to all, but which will get into the hands of the first and richest families.

At this period the attention of the Colombians is fixed on the state of Europe; and the more I contemplate the part which my country has taken in the question between France and Spain, the more I consider it a matter of congratulation to all Englishmen. England would have been false to all her former principles had she acted otherwise. The unsought intervention of France in the internal organization and affairs of Spain, is, in principle, a downright attack upon the liberties of all mankind, and should be repelled as such. It is an extraordinary fact, that in the most enlightened age of the world, there is scarcely a country in Europe which these despots of the

Holy Alliance have allowed to have that form of government which the people themselves considered most conducive to their security and happiness—witness Naples, Piedmont, and many of the States of Germany. But this state of things cannot last; it is impossible it should; it is against all the laws of human nature. No great nation was ever insulted with impunity, nor is there a discerning people in Europe that will fail, sooner or later, to overturn the throne of the most legitimate sovereign, if the principles of his government are opposed to the interest and happiness of his subjects.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

BULLETIN

OF THE ARMY BESIEGING PUERTO CAVELLO.

Francisco Rodriguez de Toro, general of division of the armies of the republic, intendant of the department of Venezuela, &c.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

I have received through the channel of the director-general of the war, the details of the late glorious operations against Puerto Cavello, and the treaty of capitulation of the citadel of San Felipe. Peruse them, and do justice to the valour and energy of his Excellency the general in chief of the department, Jose Antonio Paez, and of the troops under his command, as well as to the generosity of his Excellency in granting them.

BULLETIN.

Having constructed a rocket battery, one of its guns cleared the "Mangle" of the enemy's launches, which had until then flanked our line, whilst the other bombarded the Merlon of the enemy's battery, called "La Princesa," occasioning therein a breach which almost left its cannon exposed. The new position of the mortar and howitzer upon our right attracted the observation of the enemy to that quarter, and his Excellency, the general-in-chief, with a view to distract their attention, gave directions for cutting off the water in the narrowest part of the river, which was com-

pletely effected on the 6th instant, under fire from all the guns of the citadel. At the same time a cannonade, from the left of "Los Cocos," battered in breach at half musquet-shot distance the parapet which guarded and defended the entrance to the moat-house. The enemy in consequence desisted from their operations on the left, and directed their attention to the outer line. His Excellency, who had well considered all the evil consequences that might result from a protracted siege, which, notwithstanding the bravery and honour of the besiegers, promised only a remote hope, owing to the obstinacy of the besieged, put in execution a plan which he had often conceived, and whose realization had been hitherto prevented from want of means. An assault might decide the fate of a place possessing provisions for three months. Not having small vessels for this undertaking, it became necessary to accomplish it by fording the lake, and on the 5th instant he despatched a reconnoitring party, with the captain of cavalry, Marcelo Gomez; lieutenants of the battalion of Auzoategui, Juan Albornoz and Jose Hernandez; with Julian Istucta as a guide.

This having been satisfactorily accomplished, his Excellency appointed four hundred men of the brave battalion of Auzoategui and one hundred lancers of the regiment of honour, both under the command of Major Manuel Cala of the former regiment, with Lieutenant-Colonel José Andres Elorza as second in command, to advance through the lake at 10 o'clock, under cover of a dark night, as far as the custom-house. On this occasion our troops proved their discipline more than ever, since in an advance through mud and water of more than eight squares (*quadras*) in extent, where the soldiers could hardly keep their footing, not the slightest noise was heard on the march, nor the least separation in a column of five hundred men marching in line. No one who

has not traversed this spot, can imagine the difficulties which our troops had to surmount in passing a place, which the enemy considered impassable; and which could only have been successfully accomplished by the bravery of our soldiers.

At half-past two in the morning, our vanguard reached the land, between the battery "Constitution," and the bastion "Princesa," and they had scarcely time to form before they were discovered by the enemy, and the firing commenced. By a simultaneous movement, and with the rapidity of lightning, our troops made themselves masters of the bastions "La Princesa" and "El Principe," after having lanced and bayonetted the enemy, who preferred death to the abandonment of their posts.

Major Cala, in conformity with his instructions, divided his column quickly, and pointed out to each section the point which it was to take possession of. The company of grenadiers, Captain Francisco Dominguez, with the first company under Captain Pedro Rosas, with fifty lancers, all under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Francisco Farfan, were appointed to occupy the batteries Princesa and Principe. The second company, commanded by Captain Laureano Lopez, with twenty-five lancers, and Captain Juan Jose Merida, were directed to take possession of the Pier. The third company, commanded by Captain Joaquin Peres, to the "Cerito." The fourth company, with Captain Gabriel Guevara, occupied the battery "La Constitution." Twenty-five lancers, with Lieutenant-Colonel Jose de Lima, occupied the gate of the palisades, (*estacada*,) which was the utmost limit of the enemy's garrison in the outer works. Major Cala, and the company of light infantry, with Captain Valentin Reyes, remained as a reserve in the battery "Princesa."

All these points were occupied at the same instant, in spite of the resistance which the enemy made in each. The rapidity and success of this movement are incredible. It lasted half an hour, within which time we were masters of all the fortifications of the place, whilst various parties reconnoitred the precincts, where they met only with dead bodies, or those who surrendered, supplicating for their lives. It is necessary to have been a witness of the resolution of our officers and soldiers—it is necessary to be apprised of their grounds of resentment against an obstinate enemy, who had four times contemned the generous proposals of his Excellency, inviting them to make terms, in order to appreciate the heroic and eminent moderation which they observed on the firing having ceased,—the persons of soldiers, citizens, chiefs and officers, were all respected, and in a short time conquerors and conquered were confounded together in the streets.

As the outer line of the enemy was well garrisoned, and a breach had been made on the same day sufficient to draw the attention of the enemy to that part; his Excellency posted the light company of the grenadier battalion in its neighbourhood; who on the commencement of the firing in the city, made a demonstration on the outer line; but the enthusiasm of this company was so great, on perceiving their companions compromised within the city, that they attacked the "Casa fuerte," and many had already reached the parapet, when his Excellency ordered their retreat, on having learnt the advantages which the main body had gained within the city. The garrison of this place, consisting of ninety good riflemen, as soon as they beheld themselves cut off from their comrades, proposed to capitulate within an hour; but his Excellency replied that they must surrender at discretion, and they did so.

Our naval forces having approached the battery "El

Principe," opened a tremendous fire, so that being threatened in three directions, the enemy in general found it impossible to oppose longer resistance; with the exception, however, of some chiefs and officers and brave soldiers, who preferred death to the infamy of abandoning their posts.

The fruits of this brilliant day's achievement are, the possession of the city, with sixty pieces of artillery of various sizes, six hundred and twenty musquets, and whatever remained of private property. The loss of the enemy consists of one hundred and fifty-six killed, among these Lieutenant-Colonel Don José Manuel Sarsamendi and Don Fausto Garces, commandant of artillery, Don Faustino Navarro and five officers. Prisoners, Lieutenant-Colonel Don Angel Leño, seven captains, seven lieutenants, twelve sub-lieutenants, two surgeons, five assistant surgeons, two hundred and thirteen soldiers, together with all the individuals of the municipality, the public officers, the auditor of war, Don José Manuel Oropeza, and the political chief and intendant, Don Diego de Alegria.

Brigadier-General Don Sebastian Calzada, commander in chief of the troops and city, who bravely defended himself in the battery of " El Principe" with all his staff, was made prisoner, having resisted until almost all who manned the battery being killed or wounded, he was compelled to yield to the valour of our troops; whilst Colonel Don Manuel Carrera, who was with him, cowardly fled at the first shot, in spite of the example of his general, abandoning his comrades and friends, and saving himself in the citadel after being slightly wounded.

Our loss consists of Captain Laureano Lopez, of the battalion of Auzoategui, slightly wounded; Lieutenant José Hernandez, of the same battalion, bruised by a grape-shot from one of our flecheras; and three soldiers wounded: and in the

attack on the "Casa fuerte," was wounded Lieutenant Gregorio Schrieden, of the light company of the grenadiers, with four soldiers killed, and seventeen wounded.

After the immense sacrifices made by the besieging army; the privations it has sustained; and the incessant labour by which it has opposed the batteries of the enemy, in an exposed country; constructed, as the latter are, on all the rules of art, the merit of the attacking column is inexpressible: not a soldier who has not achieved prodigies. Chiefs, officers, and troops are worthy of the highest praise. His Excellency, filled with enthusiasm at the conduct of these brave men, pronounces them a model of valour and intrepidity; and particularly commends the conduct of Major Cala, who fulfilled all the instructions given to him by his Excellency with so much skill and prudence; also of Lieutenant-Colonel Francisco Farfan, and Lieutenant-Colonel José Lamia, his field-adjutant, who voluntarily offered to share the fate of these valiant men.

The consequence of this extraordinary success has been the capitulation of the citadel of San Felipe, which took place on the 10th instant, and in which his Excellency has displayed his accustomed generosity.

The department of Venezuela is now rendered tranquil by the efforts of its successful army; and his Excellency, the general-in-chief, to whom it is indebted for this happy situation, having fulfilled the intentions of the government in reposing the command of these provinces in his hands, by thus concluding a war, which for thirteen years has desolated this beautiful but unhappy country, has accomplished his wishes, and redeemed the pledge which he has so often given.

GEORGE WOODBERRY,
Colonel.

Head Quarters. Puerto Cavello,
Nov. 12, 1823.—13.

CAPITULATION;

In the city of Puerto Cavello, on the 10th of November, 1823.

Captain Don José Maria Isla, commandant of the citadel of San Felipe, together with the commissary of war, Don Miguel Rodriguez, and the syndic of this port, Don Martin Aramburu, having been commissioned by the commander-in-chief of the said citadel and its troops, Don Manuel de Carrera y Colina, to treat respecting the surrender of the same, on the invitation of his Excellency the besieging general-in-chief, José Antonio Paez, on the basis of instructions delivered to us by the former, in consequence of imperious circumstances: and both contracting parties being desirous of avoiding the further effusion of blood, and of terminating in an honourable way the afflictions and sufferings of the meritorious chiefs, officers, troops, and housekeepers, who may be prisoners of the republic of Colombia, in consequence of the event of the night of the 7th instant, as also of others similarly situated in other parts; and with a view of putting an end to this disastrous conflict as a service to humanity; in virtue of a supplication made to his Excellency the general-in-chief, by the said Colonel Don Manuel de Carrera y Colina, that he will be pleased to hear us, have proposed the following articles:—

Article 1. When the moment shall arrive for the departure of the garrison from this citadel, (on terms to be hereafter considered,) it shall do so with colours flying, drums beating, having two field-pieces with twenty-five rounds each, and lighted matches; the chiefs and other officers carrying with them their arms and baggage, and the troops their musquets, knapsacks, belts, and pouches, sixty rounds of ammunition, and each soldier two flints: the troops of Colombia paying to them the usual honours of war.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 2. Those employed or commissioned in the various branches of the public service shall move out in the same manner, with their families, arms, baggage, attendants, and servants.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 3. That the brigadier-general and commander-in-chief, together with the political chief and intendant, and all other chiefs, officers, troops, and public servants, who were made prisoners on the night of the seventh and morning of the eight instant, shall be comprehended in the two foregoing articles.

Answer.—Granted that the chiefs and officers shall carry with them their swords; but not granted to the troops to carry their arms and ammunition.—Paez.

Art. 4. That no military man or public servant alluded to in the foregoing articles shall be considered as a prisoner of war.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 5. That both the one and the other shall be conveyed in Colombian vessels to the island of Cuba without fail; with exception of such of the local militia as may wish to remove to foreign colonies; all being entitled to such assistance as they may require for the voyage, from the government of the republic.

Answer.—Granted.—But such as remain, and do not choose to embark when vessels are ready to receive them, shall afterwards make the voyage at their own expense.

Art. 6. That the archives of the public offices shall be likewise removed in the same vessels, at the expense of the individuals whom they may concern.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 7. That such as are comprehended in Articles 1. and 2. shall not quit the citadel until the moment when the vessels for conveying them are about to sail.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 8. That until these terms are fulfilled, the Spanish flag in the citadel shall not be struck; and when it shall be so, it shall be saluted by the citadel, with similar honours from the batteries of Colombia.

Answer.—Granted; as far as that the citadel alone may do honour to its flag.—Paez.

Art. 9. That no armed Colombian vessel shall enter into the port until two hours after the sailing of the vessels with the Spanish garrison; nor shall the citadel be occupied by the Colombian troops for the same space of time.

Answer.—Granted.—The vessels of war of Colombia may enter the port two hours after the dis-occupation of the citadel; or before, should any suspicious squadron appear in sight; in which case, whoever may command in the citadel shall hoist a white flag to avoid the infraction of this treaty.—For the rest, granted.—Paez.

Art. 10. That a formal delivery shall previously be made to the agents of his Excellency, of every thing in the citadel, in the state in which it now is.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 11. That such of the sick and wounded as may be obliged to continue in the city, on account of the severity of their illness, shall likewise be conveyed to a Spanish possession as soon as circumstances will permit: and that in the interim they shall be assisted and succoured at the expense of Colombia, and treated with becoming attention and skill.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 12. That in like manner, and in proper form, all prisoners belonging to, or taken from the Spanish government, and who may be now in La Guayra, Carthagena, or other parts of Colombia, shall be conveyed to a Spanish possession at the expense of Colombia.

Answer.—Refused, as being beyond the sphere of my faculties; but it shall be recommended to government.—Paez.

Art. 13. If any one or more of those comprehended in the foregoing articles should wish to remain in Colombia, they shall not be disturbed or molested; but, on the contrary, they shall be protected in the rights, privileges, and consideration shewn to other citizens; preserving them in their employment, or others equivalent thereto, or furnishing them with passports to reside wheresoever they may choose.

Answer.—Such individuals as choose to remain in the territories of the republic, may so remain, enjoying in their persons and properties the same security as Colombians, so long as they respect the laws of the republic. With respect to employments, the foregoing article is granted as far as relates to military men.—Paez.

Art. 14. That the small number of light vessels (including the flechera puertaña) belonging to private persons, which have been taken up by the nation, in consequence of having no others, shall be disarmed and returned to their owners.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 15. Such widows and orphans as have a claim to military pensions, together with all invalids and others who may have a claim on the Spanish treasury in this city, shall be assisted by Colombia until an opportunity occurs of conveying them, at the expense of the republic, to a Spanish possession.

Answer.—The government can only consent to provide the necessary transports and provisions for the voyage, and rations whilst they are on board.—Paez.

Art. 16. All vessels, whether of war or commerce, that may enter or be bound for this port, in the belief of its still belonging to Spain (for want of the necessary notice), shall not be molested nor incommoded; but, on the contrary, shall be protected, should they require it, until ninety days after the ratification of this treaty.

Answer.—Within fifteen days after the departure of the

Spanish garrison from the citadel, every vessel bound to the port or entering it, shall be a lawful prize. In other particulars, granted.—Paez.

Art. 17. That the properties and persons of the inhabitants of this place shall be respected, whatever may have been their opinions; without opposing their departure hence when and whither they please; permitting them to take with them their properties, or sell them, or leave them in the management of confidential agents, as may best suit them.

Answer.—Granted; as far as relates to the properties of those housekeepers and other inhabitants who are now in this city or its citadel; provided that the government has not disposed of any property referred to in this article. In other particulars—granted.—Paez.

Art. 18. There shall be included in the privileges of the foregoing article, those who may be absent, and who may wish to return hither in order to dispose of their landed property; as likewise those emigrants who may possess property out of this jurisdiction, and who have been compelled to remain here on account of their employments or other causes.

Answer. Granted; as far as is compatible with the existing laws of the republic; reserving to myself the power of recommending the claims of such as are interested in this article.—Paez.

Art. 19. The claims of all emigrants from Colombia, now in Spanish or foreign countries, shall be attended to; and they shall be considered as entitled to their landed properties, should they wish to apply for them either personally or through their agents.

Answer.—The individuals to whom this article applies must make their demands to the government of the republic, to whom I will recommend their petitions.—Paez.

Art. 20. Merchants, whether European or American, who may have emigrated and who wish to return to Colombia,

to regulate their affairs, may do so freely, and shall be protected by the government.

Answer.—Granted on the same terms as the foregoing article.—Paez.

Art. 21. All persons in the citadel who wish to pass to the city, for the purpose of collecting their baggage, properties, and papers of every description, shall not be disturbed in so doing, and in conveying them to the citadel.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 22. If the provisions in the citadel should be expended, in consequence of delay, the garrison shall be maintained at the cost of Colombia, from the moment they demand it.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 23. All the inhabitants of the valleys of Booburata, Patanemo, and Moron, shall be entitled to the same consideration and rights as those of this place.

Answer.—Granted in like terms as in article 17, with reference to this city.—Paez.

Art. 24. That those who capitulated in the fort of "Mirador de Solano," shall be exonerated from the oath which they then took, not to bear arms in the present war against Colombia; as well as Lieutenant-Colonel Don Francisco Urribarry.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 25. That should any doubt arise respecting the interpretation of these articles, it shall be decided in favour of the capitulists.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

Art. 26. Until the fulfilment of this treaty by both parties, mutual hostages shall be given.

Answer.—Granted.—Paez.

(Signed) JOSE MARIA ISLA,
MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ,
MARTIN DE ARAMBURU.

Having discussed and conferred on the foregoing articles with his Excellency the besieging general-in-chief José Antonio Paez, with all the deliberation due to so interesting a matter, we have agreed to the assents and dissents recorded at the end of each of our propositions; and in pledge of a strict and faithful compliance with the said treaty, there remain as hostages on the part of the Spanish government the following gentlemen of the commission—Don José Maria Isla, captain and commandant of the citadel of San Felipe; and the commissary of war, Don José Maria Rodriguez: and on the part of Colombia, Captains Rafael Romero and Ramon Perez; in proof of which we have signed hereunto conjointly with his Excellency the general-in-chief already named.

The besieging general-in-chief

JOSE ANTONIO PAEZ,
JOSE MARIA ISLA,
MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ,
MARTIN DE ARAMBURU.

Secretary of his Excellency—ANTONIO CARMONA.

Citadel of San Felipe, city of Puerto Cavello, 10th Nov. 1823.

I ratify the present treaty, and hereby conform to it—

MANUEL DE CARRERA Y COLINA,
Colonel Commander-in-chief.

His Excellency, the commander-in-chief, in remitting these most interesting documents, announces, that on the 15th instant, the Spanish garrison that capitulated, had embarked, and that our troops occupied the citadel.

I congratulate you, fellow-countrymen, on the happy termination of the war in this department, and let us offer eternal gratitude to the brave defenders of the country, who have stamped its glory on the above memorable day.

Prosperity to the republic of Colombia—to the general-in-chief of the department—to his companions in arms.

FRANCISCO R. DE TORO.

Caraccas, Nov. 17, 1823.—13.

No. II.

Pay of the Army.

	Dollars per Month.
General-in-Chief	500
General of Division	400
General of Brigade	300
Colonel	200
Lieutenant-Colonel	150
Chief of Battalion	100
Captain	60
Lieutenant	40
Sub-Lieutenant	30
Surgeon	50
Chaplain	40
First Serjeant	18
Second ditto	15
First Corporal	12
Second ditto	11
Drummer	11
Soldier	10

No. III.

Prices of Merchandize, &c. at Bogota.

	£.	s.	d.
Meat, per pound	0	0	3¾
Bread	0	0	3½
Sugar &c.	0	0	6½
Sweetmeats	0	10	0

	£.	s.	d.
Wax of Europe - -	0	9	0
Gunpowder - - -	0	8	0
Saffron, per ounce - -	0	10	0
Wine, per dozen - -	3	10	0
Olive oil (Spanish) - -	0	6	2
Keep of a horse, per week -	0	15	0
Hat (best) - - -	3	10	0
Half-boots - - -	2	2	0
Shoes - - -	0	12	0

The charge of a single mass is about a dollar, and a baptismal fee 6s. 6d. A marriage costs twelve dollars with, and two hundred dollars without banns. A burial for the poor is four dollars and a half; and for a rich person two hundred dollars are required.

No. IV.

Returns of the Revenue collected at the Custom House of Carthagena, in the year 1822.

	Dollars.	Reals.
From Importation Duties - -	8,164,686	7½
Ditto Exportation Ditto - -	16,794	5½
Ditto Internal Ditto - -	8,596	0½
Ditto Lepers' Hospital Ditto - -	1,001	2½
Ditto Anchorage Ditto - -	1,790	0
Ditto Tonnage Ditto - -	4,448	2½
Ditto Penalties of the Exchequer -	216	6½
	8,197,534	0½

Returns of the Revenue collected at the Custom House of Carthagena, in the year 1823.

	Dollars.	Reals.
From Importation Duties - - -	236,356	1
Ditto Exportation Ditto - - -	21,878	7
Ditto Internal Ditto - -	32,136	5
Ditto Lepers' Hospital Ditto - -	3,585	1½
Ditto Anchorage Ditto - -	1,032	0
Ditto Tonnage Ditto - -	2,232	5½
Ditto Penalties of the Exchequer -	1,547	1½
	298,768	5½

NOTE.—The duties of anchorage and tonnage were considerably reduced in 1823, which caused the falling off in the last returns.

No. V.

Return of Value of Produce exported from the Port of La Guayra, between the 1st *of January and the* 1st *of July,* 1824, *with the Duties levied.*

	Value of Cargoes.		Duties.	
January - -	57,679	7½	5,762	2
February - -	200,965	1½	20,066	6½
March - -	145,230	4	15,388	1½
April - -	240,299	7	24,010	4½
May - -	171,882	5½	17,172	5
June - -	88,438	7	8,843	1½
Dollars,	904,497	0½	Doll. 91,243	5

Return of Value of Imports into the Port of La Guayra, between the 1st of January and the 1st of July, 1824.

	Value of Cargoes.		Duties.	
January - -	184,954	0½	37,991	4½
February - -	194,139	7½	40,188	3
March - -	359,144	4	71,575	4
April - -	90,460	0	22,368	0½
May - -	85,644	2	19,592	7½
June - -	666,186	5½	131,214	1
Dollars,	1,580,529	3½	Doll. 322,930	4½

From this return of one Port alone in the short space of six months, and in the present impoverished state of the country, some idea may be formed of the great value of what the trade ofthe whole Republic will be, when, by the advantages of peace and good government, it shall have become opulent. It is the interest of no country so much as Great Britain, to pay attention to this most probable change in affairs, when the demand for British manufactures may be increased to an enormous extent, little calculated on at the present moment.

THE END.

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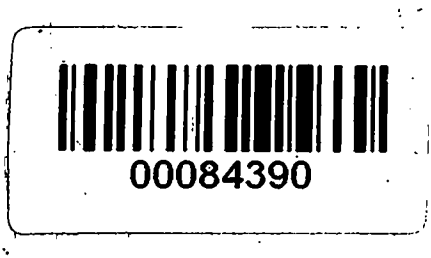
ERRATA.—VOL. I.

Page 12, line 11, *for* roanos *read* roanas.
100, — 15, *for* Quindia *read* Quindio.
303, — 13, *for* Goyeneche *read* Gayeneche.
340, — 6, *for* Donoju *read* Donaju.
374, — 12, *for* Citara *read* Citera.
403, — 5 and 12, *for* Goyeneche *read* Gayeneche.
505, — 7, *for* Auzuategui *read* Ansuartagui.
516, — 23, before "of" insert "3d."

VOL. II.

Page 161, line 6, *for* Caballo *read* Cabello.
179. — 18, *for* rival *read* river.
219, Heading, *for* Coquita *read* Coquisa.
— — 17, *for* Do. *read* Do.
302, — 1, *for* Chicha *read* Chicha.
463, Heading, *for* Papa *read* Popa.
— — 1, 14, 15, *for* Do. *read* Do.
464, Heading, *for* Do. *read* Do.
— — 5, *for* Do. *read* Do.
477, — 26, before "Magdalena" insert "the."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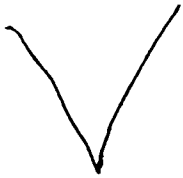

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